

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LIII.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 7th April, 1901, at No. 2, West End Lane, Shanghai, the wife of J. GREGORY, of a son.
On the 9th April, 1901, at No. 21, Miller Road, Shanghai, the wife of O. A. MADAR, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 8th April, at Bethesda, Bras Basah Road, Singapore, by Mr. A. R. Thoburn, Mr. JOHN CLEMENT CUTT, E. E. A. and C. Telegraph Company, to ANNIE, daughter of Mr. A. L. KOENITZ, Frankfurt House, Singapore.

At St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, on Monday, the 8th April, by the Rev. D. Holland Stubbs, W. H. B. ALLEN to FLORENCE, second daughter of First Class Master Gunner SMITH, R.G.A.

On the 10th April, 1901, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., GEORGE FREDERICK STOOKE, L.R.C.P. & S.E., of Ichang, to JESSIE JANE GRAHAM, L.R.C.P. & S.E., daughter of David GRAHAM, Esq., Dunfermline, Scotland.

On the 10th April, 1901, at the U.S. Consulate, Shanghai, MARGARET CECILIA MOLLOY, of New York, to HENRY AUGUSTUS BRANSCOM, of Ogden, Utah, U.S.A.

DEATHS.

On the 3rd April, 1901, at Newchwang, Mrs. SUSANNA LISTER, native of Sunderland, relict of the late William LISTER, in her 67th year.

On the 8th April, 1901, at No. 2, West End Lane, Shanghai, Mrs. MARIAN GREGORY, the wife of John GREGORY, aged 23 years.

On the 9th April, 1901, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, ERNEST MICHAEL, aged 50 years.

At Medan, Netherlands-India, on the 9th April, PHYLIS, eldest daughter of Mr. J. H. WICKHAM.

At No. 105, D. Orchard Road, Singapore, on the 10th April, LOUIS ROBECK, of Germany (Grasse), aged 48 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The American mail of the 15th March arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *America Maru*, on the 12th April (28 days); the English mail of the 15th March arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, on the 13th April (29 days); the Canadian mail of the 25th March arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 16th April (22 days); and the German mail of the 6th March arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, on the 17th April (42 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Hsiangyang, Northern Hupeh, is said to be favoured as the new capital of China, in place of Peking. It is said that the Empress Dowager refuses to go to Peking.

It is announced that the Northern Pacific Railway has chartered eight steamers to run from Tacoma to Liverpool by way of the Far East, commencing this May.

It is reported that Mr. Alger, speaking to an interviewer, said that the time had now arrived for a thoroughly pacific policy in the Philippines, and 25,000 troops were quite sufficient for the work to be done.

On Wednesday night during a gale at Woonung H.M.S. *Centurion* dragged her anchors and fouled the ram of H.M.S. *Glory*, damaging a wing compartment and necessitating her starting for this port to-day to dock and repair. The *Glory* was not injured.

A fight took place at Nagasaki on Wednesday evening, the 10th inst., between some of the men of H.M.S. *Barfleur* and some French soldiers and sailors. One British sailor was killed and three seriously wounded before the French officers could stop the fight.

Seoul telegrams of the 2nd inst. state that the McLeavy Brown affair was amicably settled at the audience granted by the Korean Emperor to the British Minister on the previous day, and that the Korean Government had forwarded an official note to Mr. McLeavy Brown and withdrawn the notice of dismissal.

A Russian semi-official statement of policy pursued in China contradicts the German Emperor's statement that the Tsar suggested the appointment of Count von Waldersee to the command in China, and further says that although Russia immediately informed the Cabinets of the Powers of her assent to the appointment, it did not imply any intention to deviate from her own programme later.

The *Echo de Chine* states that Chapa and Lentay in Tibet have been destroyed by brigands, who captured and tortured a French priest, M. Mussot; on the demand of M. Bons d'Anty, French Consul at Chungking the Viceroy of Szechuen has sent a force to endeavour to rescue M. Mussot. Mosymien has also been destroyed by the brigands, who are threatening Tachianlu. The same papers report that the indemnity claimed by the French in Szechuen on account of Yu M n-tze's outrages has been paid in full.

Aguinaldo has taken the oath of allegiance to the United States after much hesitation. The ceremony took place on the evening of the 1st inst. His act is stated to have been brought about by the arguments of the Chief Justice. Aguinaldo is also stated to have signed a manifesto to the Filipino people, calling on them to accept United States sovereignty. It is said that he will probably accept President McKinley's invitation to visit the United States.

We have received information from a perfectly reliable source that at 11 p.m. on the 17th instant that part of the Imperial Winter Palace at Peking which was inhabited by Field Marshal Count von Waldersee, including the travelling asbestos house brought by him from Germany, was burnt to the ground. Major-General von Schwarzkopf fell a victim to the fire, the origin of which is unknown. There is stated to be no reason for suspecting incendiarism.

According to a New York despatch the United States Consul at Yokohama cabled the report that Japan is on the verge of a financial crisis, owing to her extravagant expenditure and excessive flotation of foreign loans. The recent loan proposals have failed, one immediate result being that Japan is trying diplomatically to arrange a compromise with Russia regarding Manchuria and Korea. Mr. Costes, however, denies this report. He says that he forwarded a despatch in February about Japan's finances, but not mentioning any diplomatic subject.

The Tokyo correspondent of the *Mainichi* reports that a section of Japanese politicians is advocating an alliance of Russia and Japan, as recently suggested in a Russian journal. They urge that Japan should abandon all opposition to the Russo-Chinese treaty regarding Manchuria, and concentrate her entire strength in Korea. Strange to say, the correspondent writes, Russia has given up her designs on Korea, and the politicians believe that Japanese policy will undergo a change shortly. This report must be taken with a good deal of reserve.

At the beginning of the week the *New York Herald* stated that Mr. Rockhill had reported the indemnities claimed by the various Powers from China to be approximately as follows:—Russia £18,000,000 Germany £14,000,000, France £8,000,000, Japan £6,000,000, United States £5,000,000, Great Britain £4,900,000, Belgium £1,158,000, Italy, Austria, and Spain together £8,000,000. However, according to the *Times* Berlin correspondent, this statement is "exceedingly incorrect" and aroused indignation, while it is said in authoritative quarters that Germany's claims amount to £12,000,000, Russia's to £17,000,000, and France's to £13,000,000.

Fresh missionary troubles are reported from Kiangsi and Szechuen. Recently an American bought land at a place called Kianfu, Kiangsi in order to build a chapel. The people rose up and hindered. The local official could not manage the affair, so the American telegraphed to his Minister, who told the Tsung-li Yamen. They ordered the Kiangsi officials to settle the case to the satisfaction of all. The Methodist Episcopal pastor has sent a man to arrange the affair. Another case has occurred at Ta Chien-lu, Szechuen. A Roman Catholic chapel has been destroyed, and the priest driven out. The French Minister at Peking has been informed of the affair.

THE SOLIDITY OF CHINA.

(Daily Press, 18th April.)

One of the most curious features about the present position in China is the manner in which amidst all the strain the Empire has clung together. An emperor a prisoner in the hands of a faction—itsself composed of fugitives for their crimes—who have taken refuge in the most inaccessible part of the Empire—the whole dominated by a recalcitrant military officer, of no rank or position, and an incapable pretender of the imperial blood—and yet the greater part of the Empire goes on as if nothing had happened; officers are appointed by Imperial edict; revenue raised; Customs paid, and still the commands of the nominal sovereign are, when they contravene the wishes and intentions of the great governing viceroys, quietly ignored and treated as of no account whatever, or rather, before attaining the light of day, are prematurely strangled in their birth. Such a condition might be accepted, did we know no better, as the height of statesmanship, yet we should probably be correct in saying that it proceeds from the very opposite faculty, and denotes in fact the extremely low stage of development of the whole as a political machine. In its external aspect the Government of China is highly centralised, preserving in most points the imprint of its founder, the great emperor TS'IN SHIHWANG; yet during its existence it has for hundreds of years at a time been divided up into separate states, with no more connection than the kingdoms of the Anglo-Saxon heptarchy. The curious part about the thing is that, whether apart or united, the states have contrived to maintain their autonomy, and on the junction of the ruling houses have without friction coalesced. Probably of no other state could this be said. Again, though apparently the Empire has all this while been under personal government, at few times, even when the personal power of the sovereign has been at its height, have there occurred those family dissensions which have been instrumental in bringing to destruction every other power in Asia. According to Mohammedan law the sovereign has no relations, and in all ages the ruler has not hesitated to exterminate his living relations to seat himself more firmly on the throne. But the custom is long antecedent to Mohammedan times. When MEXDUN, the great Shenyu of the Eastern Turks, found that his father contemplated placing a younger brother on the throne, he did not hesitate to be beforehand with the old gentleman, and had him killed in cold blood. Some time after a Chinese ambassador, with what was doubtless considered at the time Chinese prudery, had the ill taste to bring up the subject; which gave the Turk occasion to draw a comparison between the customs of the two nations. From this particular crime, to their credit be it said, the Chinese as a rule have throughout their history been free. Again Chinese annals have to record few, if any, cases of the great officers of the state having risen in rebellion, or assumed the functions of royalty. When a good many years ago a French Consul, in despair of having his business settled at Peking, threw out a hint to LI HUNG-CHANG, then Viceroy at Nanking, about a "*Eoi du Midi*," that statesman showed no sign of appreciation, though few would have credited him even then with being disturbed by any qualms of conscience on the subject. The fact was that the system of mutual jealousy is so strong that no statesman has ever found himself in a position to take advantage of his office, however high, to disobey his liege. To another crime

the Chinese monarchy has, however, at all times been liable, and that is the assumption of Imperial power by the first lady of the harem. The HAN dynasty had only been founded some twenty years when its first monarch died leaving an only son under age, and the Dowager Empress LU SHIH did not hesitate when the time came to pass on the regency to assume the imperial power in her own person. But on other occasions, the most marked of which is the case of the Empress WU during the T'ANGS, a similar event has disgraced the Chinese annals. The present predicament of China is not one without a parallel, and doubtless if other things were alike, China would probably have the strength to recover, and go back to her old life. There is, however, a most important difference. When LU SHIH set aside the rightful heir, there were no encroaching neighbours to reckon with, China, except for the Hiung-Nu, was alone; and though the Hiung-Nu prince had the effrontery to propose for the hand of the Dowager, China could afford to treat it as a jest. This was in an even more marked degree the case during the T'ANGS; China was in every respect, both in power and civilisation, so immeasurably superior to all her neighbours that she could afford to stand still and wait. Unfortunately this is not the case now; already the nations are knocking at the gate, and there are symptoms that the first that gets inside intends to lock it in his neighbours' faces. This is hardly the time to trifle, yet that course seems to be in the ascendant.

A SUGGESTION ABOUT MANCHURIA.

(Daily Press, 16th April.)

The United States Secretary of State is said to have made the suggestion to the Chinese Minister at Washington, WU TING-FANG, that China should at once declare Manchuria open to the world, the diplomatic body at Peking being asked to frame the necessary regulations. Independently of this, the report is given in the native papers in Shanghai that the Governor of Anhwei, WANG TSE-CHUN, has sent five different telegrams to the effect that it would be better to give the Manchurian Provinces as international land, instead of allowing Russia alone to occupy it. The proposal, made from two so very different sources, is in itself an excellent one, and, as has been pointed out, such a policy adopted on a still more extensive scale some years ago would have saved China from the territorial losses which she has undergone. She would not, for instance, have lost Formosa, Port Arthur, Kiaochau, Weihaiwei. The question of feasibility, however, in the case of Manchuria to-day is not clear. Russia has now acquired such an overwhelming position in the northern province that it is practically impossible to expect that any other Power can ever be on the same footing with her there. In the railway running down to Port Arthur Russia has indisputable rights, limited only by the declaration in Article 8 of the Russo-Chinese agreement of March, 1898, that "the construction of this line shall never be made a ground for encroaching on the sovereignty or integrity of China." No Power can now interfere in this matter. But the continuance of Russia's *de facto* mastery over the whole province is not guaranteed by treaty. The united efforts of the nations interested and in particular, it seems, those of Japan, have succeeded in upsetting the preposterous "Convention" which Russia so nearly succeeded in extorting from China, but the Tsar's officials are in as strong a

position as if the Emperor's signature had been affixed. A satisfactory settlement of the question, if it is now possible, can only be arrived at after long and exceedingly difficult negotiations. The suggestion which we mentioned above is undoubtedly the only one which could guarantee the future of Manchuria in any form other than as a Russian province. But can China show sufficient firmness to secure such a solution, and will she receive the necessary support of the Powers? We cannot feel justified in answering affirmatively. About the rights of the case there are no doubt; unfortunately foreign politics usually ignore rights in favour of expediency. Russia has an opportunity of proving her *bona-fides* in the matter of Manchuria by accepting the proposed solution. We greatly fear that her anxiety to do so is merely verbal.

RUSSIA'S POSITION.

(Daily Press, 18th April.)

Russia as a nation has hitherto not been in the habit of exhibiting temper, or apparently acting on impulse; indeed what has marked her advance has been its deliberate nature, and the entire absence of accident. The "testament" of PETER THE GREAT may or may not exist in form, but that the growth of Russia has been the outcome of a plan deliberately laid, and with all its possible strains as carefully calculated as the most elaborate scheme of engineering enterprise, has long been recognised. Of late it is equally undeniable that the same "method" does not exist, and that Russian policy is not only liable to accidents, as that of other nations, but that of late her statesmen have been actuated by something which at the first glance looks very like caprice, and certainly is not unaccompanied by temper. Has Russia fallen from her former eminence, and gone into the hands of the mere average craftsman? Or is the change to be accounted for by some defect in the original foundation of the edifice which the former borings on the site, elaborate as they were, were not sufficiently comprehensive to disclose? Probably the explanation is to be sought in a combination of both the suggested causes. It is not consonant with our other experiences of human physiology that the same character should have existed in equal development during so many generations. More than other countries Russia has been marked by the persistence of one type of statesmanship, and each generation has been carefully brought up to follow in the steps of its predecessor—as in the case of her once great neighbour, "an AMURATH an AMURATH succeeds." But, as there, the strain shows signs of giving out, and the reins fall into the fingers of an ABDUL HAMED. But the great cause of the settlement is doubtless to be looked for in the neglect of the foundations. To the founders of the Russian Empire the Russian people was a negligible quantity; this was natural, for the Russian people was not aware of its own existence. But the very process of making a Russian Empire was of itself sufficient to create a Russian people even if it had not originally existed. From the beginning there was, however, a Russian people, and by degrees it has been forcing itself into a prominence which all the traditional policy of the Tsars has not been able to restrain. The Emperor ALEXANDER II emancipated the serfs, but this did not apparently imply their complete freedom, and a sore point has been left ever since. It is easy to open the flood-gates, but difficult to close them again. At all events aspirations before unknown have ever since

underlaid Russian society, which, especially amongst the student classes, is saturated with revolution. The Emperor ALEXANDER II himself was assassinated; his successor Alexander III found his throne constantly threatened; and though the present occupant, NICHOLAS II, has sought to alleviate the position of his people his life more than once has been in jeopardy. Russia is really governed by a powerful and closely knitted bureaucracy, which controls and fetters the Tsar at every turn, and does not hesitate by the mere power of its inertia, if not now and then by active measures, to set aside all his wishes: nominally an autocracy of the most pronounced character, the Tsar has less real power than in the most limited of constitutional monarchies. There are apparent signs that the present Tsar is not quite content to be made the cypher that Russian bureaucracy demands, and that the struggle is becoming so intense that a spark may precipitate the inevitable explosion. A recent order of the Tsar abolishing, apparently, banishment to Siberia as a punishment for political crime; but as in the case of the emancipation, the thing did not fall in with the views of the Bureaucracy, and the order exists only on paper as a record of the futility of the Tsar. The Tsar is bitterly opposed to the spirit of encroachment which has made Russia mistress of already more territory than she can control, and in pursuance of his desire for peace called a congress; he had, however, reckoned without his host, and his Bureaucracy took care to make the Congress something more than a mere failure. These things cannot be done in a country just awakening from the sleep of centuries without danger. Russia is sufficiently awake to feel the irritation of her fetters; she is not yet sufficiently awake to reason on the means for their removal; she knows indeed that her Bureaucracy is at the bottom of her troubles, and in her dazed condition would strike wildly. The Bureaucracy is sufficiently awake to the fact that the first action of the patient on coming to vigorous life would be to reform it out of existence; and that in this work the Tsar and the nation would be one. From its very composition, though enormously strong collectively, it lacks an individual head, and instinctively falls back on a policy of vacillation, as one or other strong hand takes momentarily the helm. One thing it is however convinced of; it cannot adopt the Tarquinian method of striking off the offending heads, because none are prominent enough in the ripe field to rise so far above their neighbours as to become conspicuous; and it does not dare to apply the scythe to the whole crop. It has therefore to fall back on the old device of diverting the attention of the masses while it makes its secret preparations. It was thus that the last of the series brought to judgement—the corrupt bureaucracy which had taken possession of France in the later days of NAPOLEON III. to hide its own misconduct commenced the war with Germany, and met its own punishment on the disastrous field of Sedan.

The recent disturbances in the chief cities of Russia, the preparations against which point to their serious nature, coincident as they are with Count LAMSDORFF's otherwise incomprehensible policy at Peking, seem to indicate that something more than the mere gain of territory is at the bottom of the more than usually tortuous and truculent conduct, with regard to the difficulty in China, which has marked his tenure. The old system of forcible repression of the disease is becoming too dangerous; burst forth it must with redoubled

violence, and too probably in the near future—so near in fact to be comfortably viewed by the present generation of officials. Under such circumstances statesmen, other than Russian, have in all ages been found willing to distract the attention of their nationals from home mismanagement, and its inevitable consequences to themselves, by foreign aggression—indifferent to the dangers entailed on their country, provided only it promised a hope of escape for themselves with a whole skin. This seems the only reasonable explanation of the very discreditable intrigues in which Count LAMSDORFF has engaged himself with so notorious a time-server as LI HUNG-CHANG.

THE SANITARY BOARD ELECTION.

(Daily Press, 15th April.)

This afternoon, at four o'clock, is the time fixed by H.E. the GOVERNOR for the election of two representatives of the ratepayers as Members of the Sanitary Board. The new Members are to fill vacancies caused by the retirement of Dr. HARTIGAN and the departure of Mr. McKie. Both of these gentlemen, it is almost unnecessary to state, have served conscientiously and well. Dr. HARTIGAN has brought to bear on every question which has come before him that ripe judgment and valuable experience which many years' practical connection with the health of the colony has given him. This fact was recently acknowledged officially. Mr. McKie has likewise given the Board the benefit of a valuable business experience, coupled with a desire to promote the good sanitation and well-being of the colony. It is with much regret that we have to remind the ratepayers of Hongkong that one, if not both, of these gentlemen resigned from the Board for a specific cause. It is a cause which once again the ratepayers have to face, namely, the uselessness of the Unofficial position. Dr. HARTIGAN has publicly stated this to be the case, and as he speaks from the impregnable position of painful experience, it is incumbent upon all to accept the statement of their representative; especially when it is confirmed by the other Unofficial Members. H.E. the GOVERNOR has naturally attempted to refute the present Unofficial position, and has stated, for the benefit of Downing Street, that the Board was entirely "untrammelled." We cannot congratulate H.E. on his choice of an expression, which is one of flexibility; and were not the subject indeed so serious, it must have been interpreted in a Pickwickian sense. Indeed, if H.E. intended his letter to be accepted as a reasonable explanation by the ratepayers, then his observation must have been officially enshrouded behind a pair of Bob Sawyer's convenient green barnacles. Anyone who has the patience and energy to peruse the reports of the meetings of the Sanitary Board is impressed with the repeated opposition which the Officials thereon, untrammelled in their serene confidence and strength, offer to Unofficial suggestions and schemes. In support of this it is only necessary to give one instance, quoted by our senior evening contemporary, as follows:—"At a meeting held on 4th January last, by 5 votes to 2, the Board passed the following resolution:—That in regard to the Acting Colonial Secretary's letter to the Sanitary Board, of 1st May, 1900, asking the Board to formulate a comprehensive scheme of sanitary improvements, a reply be sent that the Board are not disposed to formulate a comprehensive scheme of sanitary improvements unless some assurance be

forthcoming that the Government will give immediate effect to some at least of the Board's recommendations." That resolution was proposed by Mr. E. OSBORNE (the present member) and seconded by Dr. HARTIGAN, and supported by Mr. J. McKie, Major BROWN (the military representative) and Dr. F. CLARK (the Medical Officer of Health). It was opposed by Hon. F. H. MAY (the Acting Colonial Secretary referred to in the resolution) and Dr. J. BELL (Principal Civil Medical Officer). The two Chinese members, Chinese-like, refused to vote, and the President (Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, Director of Public Works), while not voting, spoke against the resolution. "It is possible for us to quote numerous instances within the period since we have been honoured with H. E.'s supervision of our parochial affairs. We refrain, however.

We are unable to inform our readers whether any gentlemen will have the goodness to stand to-day as the representatives of the ratepayers. It is to be hoped the ratepayers will attend in full strength and not give the Government an opportunity of stating to Downing Street that the colony looks with apathy on the whole question. They should be prepared either to elect members who will voice their reasonable demands, or to enter a strong protest against being practically deprived of the small modicum of local control given them at the instance of the Secretary of State. There is no need for us to assure any such aspirants to municipal honours that much courage and many virtues are required for such a post, also much sacrifice of time and attention to duty. It is to be hoped, however, that two gentlemen agreeable to test their skill in casuistry against the Official phalanx, and willing to devote a portion of their time to the interests of the ratepayers—if, officially they may be considered to possess any—will consent to be elected. If they resigned immediately after election it would be an effective rebuke to the local Government. We do not, however, counsel such an extreme course, for it is essential that, after all, the ratepayers should be as fully represented as possible on the Board. Abstention from representation would increase the evil, not mitigate it.

We cannot refrain from stating that if the Unofficial Members of the Board received more practical support and co-operation from the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, their labours would not be in vain. In fact, we consider that one solution of the problem lies with the Unofficials on the Council. It should be the primary duty of the latter to assist as much as possible their colleagues on the Board. At present there is a big gulf between the two bodies, and a great lack of Unofficial sympathy. To-day the opportunity is presented to the Senior Unofficial Member to state truly and emphatically the grievances of the Unofficial Members of the Sanitary Board. It should be the opportunity for an united Unofficial protest. The community of Hongkong has recently given readily to the Home Government practical assurances of its sympathy and loyalty. Surely the colony is entitled to ask that it be permitted to exercise a fair and comprehensive control of its own municipal affairs. The cry for an adequate system of local government has repeatedly gone up from our midst; and at this juncture when the needs of the Empire are now being considered with sympathetic understanding, it is conceivable a protest by the Senior Unofficial Member of Council would carry weight and secure some satisfactory response. Sir H. E. Mc-

CALLUM, the new Governor of Natal, whose name and work in our sister colony will long be gratefully remembered, recently urged the giving of leading Crown Colonies greater freedom, and a free hand in municipal matters. The colony of Hongkong has not yet attained to that position of freedom prevailing in Singapore. Instead of progressing in municipal freedom, recent developments point to the contrary. Therefore, it is to be sincerely hoped that to-day the ratepayers will give an unanimous and strong decision, supporting the action of Dr. HARTIGAN and his late colleagues on this important question.

(Daily Press, 16th April.)

As was thought probable, the election by the ratepayers of two representatives to serve on the Sanitary Board yesterday resolved itself into a farce. Some fifteen gentlemen assembled at the City Hall at the stated hour, but no nominations were made. After an appeal to Dr. HARTIGAN to stand again and a brief but interesting discussion by Messrs. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR, J. W. NORTON, KIRKE, and R. C. WILCOX, who between them brought out the position of affairs very clearly, the meeting broke up. The ratepayers by their action no doubt wished to convey their sense of the absolute ineptitude of the Sanitary Board as at present constituted and controlled. It is in these circumstances very unfortunate that a larger and more representative body of ratepayers did not make a point of presenting themselves at the City Hall, for we fear that it will now be said that the fiasco was due simply to that fatal apathy which envelopes public affairs generally in Hongkong. It was most desirable, if a protest was to be made in this form, that it should be well backed by numbers, so as to avoid any such misunderstanding as now seems probable. The result, however, is in any case the same, that popular representation on the Sanitary Board is at an end. The unofficial element is all but extinct; it will cause little wonder if shortly it should be altogether extinct. We shall be deprived of the pleasure of reading so much of the academic discussions in which the Sanitary Board has been wont to indulge. For the present, that appears to be all that is likely to happen. Time and the growth of a strong public opinion in Hongkong alone can modify the position.

THE REPORT OF THE FOOD SUPPLY COMMISSION.

(Daily Press, 16th April.)

The Report of the Food Supply Commission, signed by Messrs. E. OSBORNE, A. M. MARSHALL, F. MAITLAND, FUNG WA CHUN, and Dr. W. HARTIGAN, which was published in the *Government Gazette* of Saturday last, is an interesting document, even if it brings nothing very startling to light. The reason for the extraordinary delay in the Report is set out in the letter of the above-mentioned gentlemen to Mr. FRANCIS, K.C., and that of Mr. FRANCIS in reply, which we reprint to-day in another column, and there is no need for further comment. The Report being at last made public, nearly eleven months after the Commission was appointed, and little less than four months after it was forwarded to the Government, it remains to consider what the Commission has been able to discover on this very important question. The table of percentages of rise in the wholesale and retail prices of common articles in the course of five years fully bears out the universal complaints about the price of living, culminating in the petition presented to the Legislative Council on the 29th

March, 1900, by the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD on behalf of 152 ladies of this colony.

The enormous rises in the price of fish, beef, mutton, eggs, poultry, rice, ground-nut oil, and firewood are enough to make even those whose income is least likely to feel the hardship, pause and reflect what is to happen in the future. Europeans and natives of all races are affected by the rise, and as indications point to a continuance rather than an abatement of the trouble any steps which can be taken should receive the most earnest consideration of all concerned. It will have been seen that the Commission arrives at the conclusion that the main causes of this increase of prices have been, apart from "natural fluctuations of supply and demand," five in number, viz. (a) depreciation of silver; (b) increased cost of rice; (c) West River piracy; (d) increased rents; (e) enforcement of sanitary laws. The last item, it seems to us, is hardly clear, and the Commission vouchsafes no explanation. The enforcement of sanitary laws by checking overcrowding helps to send up rents; and regulations as to the slaughter of cattle and sale of food, by limiting the supply, heighten prices, which we take to be what the Report refers to. The other causes are plain enough. With regard to the price of rice, the evidence of Mr. A. W. BREWIN before the Commission on the 23rd July may be read. Mr. BREWIN said: "When the price of rice rises, the price of everything in China goes up. There is then less poultry and less pork in the country. It is a sort of extra tax on the people if they have got to pay more for their rice, and they won't keep the animals if they have got to buy rice for them." The Report goes on to allude to the effect of the increased naval and military forces in Hongkong and Manila, and then touches on a most important point on which the Commission was able to throw no little light. We refer to the existence of a "ring" to keep up the price of meat. Anyone reading the accounts of the examination of TUNG WING and LEE SING last July will admit that the Commission does not put the case by any means too strongly in the sixth section of the Report. In his examination Mr. LADDS, Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, cautiously admitted having "heard sundry rumours of people who put up prices, and that several Europeans have been interested in the beef trade here." He had also "seen something in the papers about it, but never had any actual evidence." Such actual evidence is practically impossible to obtain, but the presumption, founded on other evidence before the Commission, leaves no doubt in the reader's mind as to the existence of this most serious evil, a combination to keep up prices.

It will be seen that the Commission admits its failure to elicit by means of its enquiries any practical remedies of real value, but its recommendations nevertheless deserve full attention. We have already written, more than once, on the necessity for increased market accommodation, and we are glad to see the Commission put this suggestion in the forefront of the programme. The recommendation to drive out the vendors of tinned food and such stores aims at the same object, and is prompted by commonsense. The suppression of piracy requires no support: its necessity has been recognised for years past. The fourth recommendation is also one which appeals to the sense of everyone in the colony. The new Praya Reclamation Scheme is a step in the desired direction, and when it is followed, as it must ultimately be, by adequate means of rapid communica-

tion with the centre of business, should have a notable effect. All further expansion will in the same way need to be accompanied by tram and ferry service, if it is to be of real use to the colony. The fifth and sixth recommendations are less important, but they will, we should imagine, arouse no opposition. It will be noted, however, that the Commission is of the opinion that the present market rents are not excessive, and have not contributed to the rise in prices. The last recommendation, which is contained in the ninth, tenth, and eleventh sections of the Report, deals with the encouragement of stock-breeding and vegetable-growing in the New Territory, and is in a way the most important of all. For this reason we must postpone its consideration for another occasion, as it is impossible to do justice to it in a few lines. The New Territory, as it now is, is the colony's "white elephant," except from a political and strategical point of view. It brings in practically nothing in return for its cost to Hongkong, and to the non-official mind the slowness of its exploitation is inexplicable. Without denying that the Land Court and Police work is being done very thoroughly, we do not think that it is too early to consider such a scheme as the Commission put forward. The remarks of Mr. LADDS on the prospects of cattle-breeding in the New Territory (p. 47 of the Report) should be read. We shall, however, return to this subject in a future issue.

It is satisfactory that the time of the Food Supply Commission and the money devoted to it were not spent entirely in vain. The report is not an ambitious production, when we consider the months which elapsed between the appointment of the Commission and the forwarding to the Government of the result of its labours. But at least it embodies concisely an amount of material calling for serious attention, and there is no doubt that some, if not all, the recommendations made must ultimately be adopted.

NEW PRAYA RECLAMATION SCHEME.

(Daily Press, 19th April.)

Last month, when writing of the new Praya Reclamation scheme put forward by the Hon. C. P. CHATER and after certain modifications approved by the local Government, we expressed our confidence that the holders of Marine Lots would recognise that in supporting the scheme they are consulting at the same time the Colony's interests and their own. On Wednesday, a representative meeting of lot-holders gave their full support to the scheme, authorised the Government to proceed forthwith with the preliminary surveys and plans, and undertook to contribute in proportion to their marine frontages to the expenses thus incurred by the Government. So ready a response must be gratifying to Mr. CHATER, and it is satisfactory to see that there is no opposition to the present plan, whereas the scheme of 1887 met with most bitter protests and uncompromising hostility in many quarters. The ultimate success of the earlier reclamation has disarmed opposition. It is generally recognised that the increase of space available for building on this island is one of the vital necessities of Hongkong. The lot-holders, being men of commonsense, see too that they stand to gain largely by consenting to this public improvement. The resolutions carried at Wednesday's meeting will now be forwarded to the local Government without loss of time, and then comes the last step before the actual work can be commenced. Mr. CHATER anti-

cipates the lapse of about three months before an answer can be obtained from the Secretary of State in London. This answer, it cannot be doubted, will be favourable, and a great addition to the Colony will be on its way toward realisation.

As Mr. CHATELAIN stated in his speech to the lot-holders, a small alteration has been made in the design since it was set out in his letter of the 15th November last, and this is in the nature of an act of justice to Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. The first proposal was that the new reclamation should terminate, to the eastward, at the East Point property of this firm—a proceeding which would involve the destruction of their harbour frontage on the west. It is now proposed to carry the reclamation along the front of their premises and in front of the Sugar Works and to give them an interest in the scheme to the extent of 160 feet in depth of building land along their northern boundary. One effect of this, it will be noticed, will be to bring Kellett Island 160 feet nearer land. On the scheme as a whole we have already expressed our opinion at some length; and that we correctly anticipated what reception it would meet from the various owners of property on the Wanchai frontage is shown by the report of the discussion at Wednesday's meeting. No comments of an adverse character were offered by any present, and the meeting unanimously supported the resolutions proposed, signifying their complete satisfaction with the idea and its details. Seldom, we imagine, has so important a public work met with so little opposition. We look forward now to the final reclamation, which should now be only a matter of time, namely the reclamation of Causeway Bay, with the shifting of the typhoon anchorage to the other end of the Harbour. When such a reclamation has been accomplished, combined with adequate tramway facilities, the makers of Hongkong as a settlement will be able to look back with justifiable satisfaction on their labours. We have now, as it were, reached the beginning of the second act, fourteen years after the beginning of the first. We may reasonably expect that the progress of the remainder will be more rapid.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 12th April, 7.14 p.m.

The Viceroy at Wuchang is to review 20,000 foreign-drilled troops on Wednesday next, who are ready for an expedition if required.

A reliable telegram from Hsianfu states that the Empress Dowager does not intend to leave her present quarters, deceptive reports to the contrary notwithstanding.

SHANGHAI, 15th April, 8.20 p.m.

The statement is confirmed on good authority that Hsiangyang, in Northern Hupeh, is to be the future capital of the Chinese Empire, in place of Peking.

SHANGHAI, 18th April, 6.12 p.m.

It is an undoubted fact that Prince Tuan and General Tung Fuhsiang are communicating with the Trans-Baikal Russian officials.

The foreign Ministers at Peking have decided to abolish the Tsungli Yamen and the etiquette about audiences with the Emperor hitherto in force.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held in the Board Room on Thursday. The Hon. W. Chatham presided, and there were also present, Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. A. W. Brown, Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Chan A Fook and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

A SINGULAR "BLOCKAGE."

The SECRETARY read a letter from the Government transmitting copies of reports from Capt. May, and Mr. Hollingsworth, P.W.D., respecting the blockage of the sewers by the garbage washed into them from the hawkers' stalls. Mr. Hollingsworth stated that in the very large proportion of cases where special attention had been drawn to the sewers consequent on the sewer-trap being choked, it had been found that the trap only had been blocked up, and that the sewer had not suffered, as any excess had been carried away by the storm drain. As, however, the storm drains were very large and the ordinary flow very small, there was not sufficient water in them to keep them clean and any vegetable matter finding its way into them had every chance of putrefying and becoming a nuisance. Dr. Hartigan was not correct in trying to suggest that the major portion of the slush dragged from a sewer when being cleared was due to coolie restaurant-stall-keepers, as he thought, it had now been clearly shown that the traps only got the chief benefit of the offal. After referring to the earth-coolies and their irregular manner of depositing the night soil into the nearest gullies, the report concludes: "Undoubtedly eating-houses provided for the coolies would be a great thing for the streets, as hawking made the street surface in a dirty condition besides causing an obstruction, but Dr. Hartigan rather weakened his case by stating that his ground for making the remarks were that street coolie restaurant-keepers' stalls had so much effect on the underground drainage system."

Captain MAY in his report said he had never known a Chinaman throw away a tin pot or a rag, and doubted whether he would take the trouble to lift a manhole cover in order to put either in a drain or sewer.

The experience of the police was that the deposit of night soil into gullies was very rare. It must be remembered that the night soil, &c., were saleable commodities, and the coolies were paid for taking them to the contractor's boats. He (Capt. May) never saw any waste from a restaurant keeper and did not believe there were any. There was some waste off vegetable hawker's baskets but the hawkers swept it up during the day.

Mr. Fung Wa Chuen minuted: I entirely agree with the views stated in the Hon. Capt. Supt.'s minute, but I would suggest if this difference of opinion cannot be cleared away that some kind of receptacle should be placed in the thoroughfares and other things and that would do away with the complaints imaginary or otherwise.

Mr. OSBORNE thought that some good might be done if the police instructed the stall-holders to fix their stalls some distance from the gullies instead of, as at present, so near to them.

The Hon. F. H. MAY said that they relied upon the Chinese police in detecting the offenders who had put paper and rags in the sewers. He had issued fresh instructions to the force, and had offered a reward to those who were instrumental in securing the conviction of any of the offenders.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

The reports of the analyses of the Public Works supplies for March were laid on the table. It showed that the Tytam service of water was of excellent quality, and the Pokfulam and Chater Road samples were equally as good.

THE CENTRAL MARKET.

The SECRETARY read a communication from the Colonial Secretary in respect of the lighting of the Central Market, to the effect that the Manager of the Electric Company was going to fit up a section of the Market on the upper floor, experimentally, with one small lamp (16 candle power) over each shop. It was stated that he had offered to do it free of cost payment being made only for the current consumed.

Should the experiment prove satisfactory, it was stated an estimate could be obtained for the alterations required through the building. An estimate was being prepared for increasing the height of all the windows on the ground floor by about a foot, which would be forwarded in due course.

THE SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The SECRETARY laid upon the table the Surveyor's report for the first quarter of 1901. It set out that plans had been deposited and passed by the Surveyor during the quarter for the drainage of 333 houses which were carried forward from 1900, making a total of 1474 in hand. The drainage of 152 houses had been completed, leaving 922 to carry forward. Notices for repairs or alterations to the drains of 75 houses had been received; 147 were carried forward from 1900, making a total of 222 in hand. Of these 81 had been completed, leaving 141 to carry forward. Certificates had been granted under section 74 of Ordinance 24 of 1887, and section 84 of Ordinance 13 of 1901 for 179 new houses and two additions that they had been built in accordance with the provisions of these Ordinances.

The drains and sanitary fittings of 12 buildings had been inspected and reported on. Of that number the drains of one requires reconstructing, and of 11 amending.

Defects in water-closets and urinals were found in 15 instances, and in two buildings the capacity of storage tanks was inadequate. Notices had been served on the owners of 12 buildings calling on them to execute the necessary work.

In addition to the above, 5,700 houses had been inspected, with the result that 571 minor drainage nuisances had been discovered. 18 nuisances had been reported to the Medical Officer of Health and 78 to the Hon. Director of Public Works to be dealt with by them. 149 drain-taps on private property had been cleansed by the drainage Inspector.

CATTLE THEFTS.

The Secretary laid upon the table the draft of certain bye-laws, which it was proposed should be made under Section 13 subsection, 16 of Ordinance 13 of 1901.

Dr. CLARK said that the alteration in the bye-laws had become necessary because certain cattle had been stolen from the depot, and some trouble had arisen on the question of compensation.

Mr. BROWN said it seemed to him to be a great hardship that the Government should take the animals and refuse to be responsible for their custody.

Capt. MAY observed that there had been many larcenies of cattle, and most of them were traceable to the owners themselves, who did so in order to recoup themselves for the dead pigs they were not allowed to sell. There was no other way of proving it, for a man could not put a pig in his pocket or up his sleeve and get away with it.

THE STANDING ORDERS.

The appointment of the Committee to revise the Standing Orders of the Board was then brought forward. After some little discussion, the Vice-President, Dr. Clark, and the Hon. W. Chatham were appointed.

RATS AND THE PLAGUE.

On the motion of Mr. Osborne it was decided to ask the Government to renew the payment of 3 cents for every dead rat produced.

HEALTH OF MACAO.

During the week ended 6th April the total deaths at Macao had been 109, being at the rate of 19 per 1,000.

RINDERPEST AT POKFULAM.

The Secretary read a letter from the Medical Officer of Health stating that the outbreak of rinderpest at Sassoon's from Pokfulam was at an end, and that the Board might declare the premises free from infection. The sheds would be thoroughly disinfected and cleansed and the services of the watchman dispensed with.

That was all the business.

The Austro-Hungarian third-class cruiser *Donau*, 2,344 tons displacement, is on her way to China. The *Donau* will be under command of Captain Hans, who will succeed Captain Von Sambor, of the *Maria Theresia*, now on the Station, and the latter will return in command of the *Donau*, with a number of officers who are being relieved.

NEW PRAYA RECLAMATION SCHEME.

MEETING IN THE CITY HALL.

At the invitation of the Hon. C. P. Chater, quite a large number of the owners and agents of lots on the Praya fronting the Harbour in Wanchai District from Arsenal Street to Causeway Bay, met in the City Hall on the 17th inst., to consider the proposals embodied in his recently published correspondence with the Government for a reclamation of the foreshore.

Mr. CHATER, in opening the proceedings, said: Gentlemen,—I have asked you to meet me here to-day for the purpose of taking your opinion; as the owners of lots along the Eastern Praya, upon the project for the reclamation of that portion of the sea front of the city which I have, with professional assistance, elaborated and submitted to the Government, and which has been provisionally approved of and accepted by those in authority.

My correspondence with the Colonial Secretary on the subject has been so recently published in the local papers that the details of the scheme must be fresh in your memories. I have, therefore, only to remind you of the broad outlines of it and to put before you the reasons which, in my opinion, ought to influence you to accept the proposals which I have the authority of the Governor to submit for your consideration.

I have dwelt at considerable length in my letters on the advantages to accrue to the colony at large and to the revenue, from the prosecution of this work. I have now to point out, how you, individually, are likely to benefit by it and to what extent; and I hope to satisfy you, as I have, I believe, succeeded in satisfying the Government, that it is a work which ought to be taken in hand as speedily as possible and carried through with the least possible delay.

The idea is to reclaim from the sea a strip of land, very nearly a mile in length, extending from the Arsenal to the East Point Sugar Works and (except in front of Jardine's premises and the Sugar Works) not less than five hundred and twenty feet in depth from front to back. This will allow of the widening of the present praya from 50 feet to 75 feet; of a new praya 75 feet in width, and of a main street running through the centre of the reclaimed land, from West to East, also of 75 feet in width. Thirteen thoroughfares, each fifty feet in width, will run from the present praya to the new one, dividing the reclaimed area into convenient blocks. There will then be left 345 feet in depth of building land in two blocks, to be divided out among the marine lot-holders in proportion to their respective frontages. A marine lot holder, therefore, having a frontage of 50 feet, will be entitled, broadly speaking, to 345 by 50 or 17,250 square feet of land, for which the Government propose to charge 25 cents a foot by way of premium, and \$200 a quarter acre by way of Crown rent, and for which they are prepared to grant a Crown lease for 99 years with the option of renewal for another period of 99 years at a rent to be fixed by the Governor for the time being. I estimate the cost of reclamation, sea-wall, praya, streets, sewers and all expenses at a figure not exceeding 75 cents per square foot of available building land, and, even if the cost should, through any unforeseen events, run up even to \$1 a square foot, the land will still be worth having at that figure.

In my first communication to the Government I suggested a reclamation to a depth of 445 feet only, and the Government should not demand any premium for the building land acquired by the owners of lots fronting the sea. I found the Government, however, enlightened by the results of the reclamation in the central part of the city now nearing completion, most unwilling to forego the exaction of a premium in addition to the benefit to be derived to the colony at large from the largely increased area of building land and to the Treasury from prospective rents and taxes. The first proposals by Government were for a valuation of the reclaimed land and a division between the lot-holders and the Treasury of the surplus after payment of all expenses. The Colonial Secretary's letter of the 13th September last gives expression to the view.

In my letter in reply of the 29th September, I combated this proposal, pointing out the widely different character of the Wanchai district and of the properties there, as compared with the central district and the properties in that neighbourhood, and the little prospect of any considerable profit. At a later date I had an interview with His Excellency the Governor on the subject and, while I found him willing to reconsider and modify the terms referred to in the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 13th September, I found him fully determined to secure for the Treasury some direct and immediate benefit out of the proposed reclamation in the shape of a premium on every foot of building land acquired by the lot holders. Under these circumstances there was nothing to do but to recast my proposals and to see if some alteration could not be made which would enable the lot-holders to pay, and the Government to receive, the desired premium. On careful reconsideration of my calculation it seemed to me that the lot-holders could only afford to pay a premium by getting permission from the Government to take in further land from the sea, and on submitting this idea to His Excellency, it proved to be an acceptable solution of the difficulty, and therefore I assented to a payment of a premium of 25 cents a square foot on all building land reclaimed, on the understanding that a further 75 feet in depth might be included in the scheme, the 75 feet to be thrown into the seaward blocks, so that they should have a depth of 225 feet as against the 150 feet originally proposed.

This proposal is embodied in my letter to the Colonial Secretary of the 15th November last.

Since that date, another trifling alteration has been made in the design as set out in that letter. The first proposal was that the new reclamation should terminate, to the eastward, at Jardine's East Point property. It is now proposed to carry the reclamation along the front of Jardine, Matheson's premises and in front of the Sugar Works and to give them an interest in the scheme to the extent of 160 feet in depth of building land along their northern boundary.

This appeared to be due to them, as the carrying out of the reclamation involves the destruction of their harbour frontage to the west.

I deeply regret that it has been found impracticable to carry out my original suggestion for the acquisition of Morrison Hill and of the Naval Hospital Hill and for the removal of both these impediments to the expansion of our City eastward and to its more perfect ventilation. You will have noticed in my published letters to the Government what a magnificent area of building land would have been placed at the disposal of the colony if that part of my original scheme had met with acceptance. Unfortunately the Naval Authorities had, before my proposals were submitted to the Government, made all arrangements for the enlargement of the present Naval Hospital and for the construction, on the opposite spur, of an Epidemic Hospital in connection therewith, and so were, I presume, unable to assent to the suggestion for the removal of their establishments to more healthy and less crowded sites at Kowloon. I do not, however, despair of the ultimate acquisition by the Colony of the ground in question and of the ultimate expansion and development of that neighbourhood on the lines indicated in my letters. I have much pleasure in stating here that from His Excellency the Governor and from the Colonial Secretary and from the Director of Public Works, I have received every courtesy and attention in the course of the correspondence and negotiations that have resulted from my first letter of the 12th June last, as well as from His Excellency Major-General Gascoigne, who was administering the Government at that date and before whom the matter came in the first instance, and I feel assured that, if you, gentlemen, determine to accept the Government proposals, as embodied in the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 12th February last, any suggestions you may have to make with a view to the improvement of the general plan, or to the modification of the details or conditions, will be gladly received and will meet with the fullest and the fairest consideration at the hands of His Excellency and of his officers.

With the substitution of Leighton and Caroline Hills for Morrison and Hospital Hills, the cost of filling in will be slightly, but very slightly, increased by the greater distance of the former sites from the sea, but there will be economies in other directions more than sufficient to compensate, and while the scheme, as a whole, will be less advantageous to the colony and to the Treasury, it will be no less advantageous to you, and more simple and more easy of execution.

Now, gentlemen, why do I recommend you to undertake this work and to accept the Government conditions? In the first place, because your Wanchai property has never been of a very profitable description, and is becoming daily less profitable because of the rapid silting up of the foreshore from the Arsenal to Jardine's. Secondly, because the extension of the Naval Yard and Arsenal now in hand will still further intensify the unfavourable character of your location and render still more rapid the silting up of the foreshore in your vicinity. Your present Wanchai property will soon become of less value to you than it is now, and if it is to pay at all it will only be by substituting Chinese houses for the present erections and by taking your godown business elsewhere. If you ask me whether my proposed extension seaward of this Wanchai district will lead to any general improvement in rents and values out there, I think I may safely say yes. The new seawall will be a continuation of the new front of the Naval Yard and Arsenal and will be constructed in a depth of 16 or 17 feet of water, giving easy access to the new praya for the largest cargo-boats and lighters and for small steamers. There will be little future risk of silting up when the shore line is carried out into deep water and into the main line of the currents. The front blocks, 225 feet in depth, will give ample room for godowns of the latest and best patterns. The back blocks and the ground now occupied by godowns will afford room for a large number of Chinese houses on the most approved sanitary principles, for which there must be, with our rapidly increasing population, an ever increasing demand. The improvements now being effected in the Queen's Road, from the Parade Ground to the Arsenal, and the advent of the Tram, now assured, will facilitate the movement of population from West to East, and the character of the new district with its broad thoroughfares, wide streets and sanitary buildings must attract a large population. The Wanchai property owners will have, sooner or later, to reconstruct their properties, and the present is the most suitable time for doing so and the proposals now submitted allow of its being done, if you will only combine together, at the least possible expense and on a scale which will most assuredly make the undertaking a profitable one to the undertakers as well as a blessing to the colony generally. We have before us, to guide us in coming to a decision, the result of the Praya Reclamation in the Central District and we shall have, in carrying out the work, the benefit of the experience there obtained as to the precautions to be observed and the errors to be avoided. The Eastern reclamation will be a much easier task than the work done in the Central district because of the much less depth of water in which the sea-wall has to be constructed: because a wall of much less section and constructed of smaller blocks will suffice in the sheltered position of the Wanchai Praya, and by reason of the fact that the requisite earth and stone for the work is much nearer at hand and can be brought to the spot by land carriage instead of by boat, a good deal of stone from the present sea-wall being also available. The total cost will also be very much less—75 cents to \$1 as compared with \$2. On the other hand the value of the land reclaimed cannot well exceed, unimproved, \$4 a square foot, while unimproved value of the present reclamation was fairly estimated at \$7 per square foot and now considerably exceeds that figure. You have also to bear in mind that, as pointed out in my letter to the Colonial Secretary of the 29th September last, your present property, during the Reclamation works, will probably not maintain its value as effectively as did the property of the lot-holders along the Central Praya, but loss and inconvenience arising in that way will be diminished, as far as possible, by the carrying out of the works in

sections as was done in the reclamation now so nearly completed.

I strongly recommend you to take up the work. It will involve, of course, a heavy expenditure of money, but that expenditure of money will be spread over a period of 10 years at the least—five years for the actual work of reclamation; five years more for the work of building and reconstruction. It may involve a small loss of present income while the work is going on, but I feel assured that the loss of time and of money and the expenditure will be amply repaid you by the results, and that not merely will the colony benefit on the whole by the creation of a large additional district, but you will, I feel confident, profit not merely by the acquisition of the new ground but by the ultimate improvement in values of your present property.

I propose to ask you now to signify your approval or disapproval of the scheme as a whole—and your acceptance, broadly, of the Government conditions. Your assent given here will not bind you definitely to all the details, some of which have still to be worked out. The whole matter has yet to be submitted for the consideration of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. An Ordinance will have to be passed, agreements will have to be prepared and signed, and probably some of the conditions altered or modified.

I am here to answer any questions you may ask so far as I am able, and to give any explanations. I am here to listen to any suggestions for the improvement or alteration of the schemes you may have to suggest. It is my duty also and it will give me much pleasure to convey to His Excellency the Governor any proposals you may have to make and support them to the best of my ability. The Government have accepted me as the medium of communication between itself and you, and I place myself entirely at your disposal for that purpose. My sole object is the welfare of the colony generally, with which mine is intimately bound up.

If any gentleman has any questions to ask or resolutions to propose I shall be glad if he will do it now.

Mr. J. J. KESWICK said they had all listened with very great interest to the extremely lucid and able statement made by Mr. Chater on the subject of the Reclamation, which he believed would be of considerable advantage to all marine lot-holders. Mr. Chater had not said one word too much of the great advantage it would be to have the scheme carried out, and he, for one, entertained great confidence in it, and that it would ultimately be carried out, although at the outset great difficulties might have to be contended with. He thought Mr. Chater had taken considerable trouble in the matter, and had left very little to be added. He begged to propose the following resolution on the subject: "That the proposals for the Wanchai reclamation embodied in the correspondence between Mr. Chater and the Government published in the local papers be accepted in principle and that Mr. Chater is hereby authorised to forward this resolution to the Colonial Secretary."

Mr. R. YMOND: I have much pleasure in seconding it.

Carried.

Mr. MOSES: I beg to propose the following resolution: "That the holders of lots fronting the sea authorise the Government to proceed forthwith with the preliminary surveys and plans and undertake to contribute in proportion to their marine frontages to the expenses incurred by the Government in so doing."

Mr. MAITLAND: I second it.

Carried.

Mr. CHATER said that was all the business that day. He would lose no time in forwarding the resolutions to the Government and asking them to proceed with the work forthwith. He thought it would take somewhere about three months to get an answer from the Secretary of State and then the survey of the sea bed would be made and plans drawn allotting to each one what he was entitled to with regard to frontage. The meeting then separated.

The Shanghai papers give the result of the Peking Derby, run on the 10th inst., as follows:—Capt. von Sanderat (German Field Artillery), 1; Maharaja Sir Partab Singh (14th Sikhs), 2.

SANITARY BOARD ELECTION.

A FIASCO.

According to a notice published in the *Government Gazette*, and pursuant to section 4 of "the Public Health Ordinance, 1901," Mr. J. W. Norton Kyshe attended at the City Hall on the 15th inst., at 4 o'clock, as president of "an election by the ratepayers of two members to the Sanitary Board to take the places of Dr. Hartigan and Mr. McKie, who have resigned their seats on the Board."

Mr. D. Wood and Mr. Almada e Castro attended as scrutineers.

The ratepayers present were G. C. Anderson, F. C. Collins, A. Cunningham, J. S. Hagen, Dr. Hartigan, E. Osborne, G. W. F. Playfair, T. H. Reid, E. Robinson, A. H. Skelton, W. M. Watson, Messrs. R. C. Wilcox and G. F. Williams.

On the stroke of the hour the President rose and said:

Gentlemen, I trust that some public-spirited gentlemen among you will allow themselves to be nominated. I am very pleased to see here some of the leading ratepayers of the Colony. I do hope that some one will be nominated. I know what time and labour it means to some of you, but notwithstanding that, I think we ought to do something during the time we are out here for the interests of the place. Perhaps Dr. Hartigan will allow him to be re-nominated?

There was no response for a moment or two, and the President again rose, saying:

Gentlemen, will you allow me to give you my experience, just to try and see if I can arouse some interest in such matters. I cannot do it otherwise than with your permission, but I would like to stir up a little interest in this matter, if it were possible to do so.

A Voice:—Yes, go on!

The President: Well, gentlemen, when I first went to the Straits, our neighbouring Colony, in 1880, the apathy of the inhabitants with reference to Municipal matters was such that I know for a fact, and it came under my notice at the time, it was the intention of the Government to do away with the Municipality altogether, and, I believe, as far as my recollection will carry me, that it was not with the view of opposing the Government at all that this apathetic disposition was displayed, but it was simply because the leading inhabitants took no interest in the matter. And I am in a position to say that it was only when the leading members of the community, and the principal inhabitants and business men saw what course their apathy was leading them to, that they decided to ask for the repeal of the local law giving them more powers, and I do not think that the powers given to them afterwards in any way repaid them for their apathy. Since then in Penang and Singapore I think you will find very few public-spirited men who have taken an interest in Municipal matters, and who have been at all willing to devote any time and attention to them. I do not wish to say anything against some of those who are at present on the Municipal Boards at Penang and Singapore. I think, however, that, although comparisons are odious, there are a good many men of position and standing in that distant colony who would compare very favourably with those similarly situated here, with respect to their general apathetic attitude towards matters municipal. I am afraid that what I have said with reference to the Straits Settlements applies very much to Hongkong. I think we must take an interest in the place in which we live, and I hope that after the few words I have said upon the subject that you will allow yourselves to be nominated, and devote what time you can to the sanitary affairs of this Colony. We must abide by the law, notwithstanding its defects, and it is no use of us trying to go against it. By proper representation in the proper quarter, a probable amendment of it might take place. I do not think by refusing to be elected you are doing yourself any good, and certainly you are doing no good to the community.

Mr. Playfair said that as the president had thrown Singapore and Penang in the teeth of Hongkong, he would like to hurl Shanghai back again. Shanghai was a model community

as well as a "Model Settlement." No apathy was there, and here it was not apathy but disgust. In Shanghai they had a Municipality elected by members of the community and well governed, and here they could get the same good Government if they had fair representation. They could not expect members would allow themselves to be browbeaten by Government officials. That was the reason why they saw such apathy here. The people were not going to attend themselves and say they were going to be elected. The members of the Legislative Council should have been present and invited them. They were the people to do it.

Mr. Wilcox said he thought if they were to proceed to the election of any members that day it would be something like a farce, and he did not think the proceedings of the meeting should be allowed to develop into a farce. There were only fifteen present and they did not represent by any means the voice of the ratepayers of the Colony.

The President: In reply, I think I may say that in 1899, Dr. Hartigan and Mr. McKie were nominated by members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Wilcox: There was a regatta on that occasion, and I think that although the attendance was small, it was more representative than at present.

Here the gathering rose and left the room, except one ratepayer, who stood for several moments gazing pensively at the polling booths which had been erected at the side of the hall.

According to law the president and his attendants remained in the hall till 6 o'clock, up to which time there were no names presented to fill the vacancies.

THE VITRIOL OUTRAGE.

EUROPEAN ARRESTED.

A startling development has just taken place in connection with the outrage upon Mr. George Reek, for the perpetration of which two Chinese employees at the Naval Yard were on 18th inst. at the Criminal Sessions sentenced to three years' imprisonment each. The details of the case are so well known as to render recapitulation unnecessary. To state a fact, however, to which publicity has not yet been given, it may be mentioned that at the magisterial enquiry held into the circumstances attending the outrage the significant statement was made by a Chinese witness that a European at the Naval Yard had endeavoured to procure someone to throw "medicine water" upon Mr. Reek. The importance of this statement, though recognised by the authorities, was to a certain extent minimised by its vagueness, cross-examination of the witness making it clear that he was merely giving hearsay evidence. That a European was implicated would now seem almost certain. On Wednesday evening, acting on a warrant from the Magistrate, Inspector Cuthbert, of the detective staff, proceeded to the residence at Wanchai known as Sea View, and arrested the occupier, George Allen, on suspicion of being concerned in the attack upon Mr. Reek. The prisoner was taken to the Central Police Station and lodged in a cell for the night. On Thursday morning he was brought before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy, and charged "that he, the said George Allen, on 17th January, 1901, and on divers subsequent dates, at Victoria, in this Colony, feloniously did aid, abet, counsel, and procure one Yeung Kun to throw a certain destructive substance upon one George Reek, which destructive substance was in fact thrown upon the said George Reek on 14th March, 1901, and by which the said George Reek did suffer grievous bodily harm." The defendant pleaded not guilty, and was formally remanded until Thursday, 25th inst., at 2.15 p.m.

The accused is a young man of about thirty years of age, and is married.

An extraordinary incident is reported from the Shanghai Golf Links, two players, Mr. John Cooper, playing his second for the 6th green, and Mr. Hodges, of Rangoon, driving from the 7th tee, striking simultaneously, with the result that the balls collided at a point some nine feet from the ground and flew off in different directions. Such an incident, of course, cannot well happen except on links when the holes are close—as at our own links.

THE RAISING OF THE "CANTON RIVER."

The final stages in the raising of the sunken dredger *Canton River* have made satisfactory progress since they were last reported in these columns. The parbuckles have been taken off, and the purchases have been removed. The nine anchors have been lifted, and the five cofferdams, two on the port and two on the starboard side, forward, and one aft over the engine room, have been taken off preparatory to clearing the way for the raising operations. It was found that the bucket rack was unshipped, that evidently having been brought away by her last turn-turtle, and as it was in a very dangerous condition for divers, workmen had to be put upon it to place it into its original position. That has been satisfactorily done, and all the mats and canvas cofferdams, &c., have been cleared. We understand that the idea is to go over the work again, as sketched out by Captain Scott, with some few additions. It should be mentioned that Mr. Ford, boatswain of H.M.S. *Terrible*, and a party of men, were left behind to complete the operations, Commander Blackburn superintending in the absence of Captain Scott. The dredger's stern has been already brought in by the stern purchase of the first trial, and all that remains now is to continue the work of lifting. Her present position is said to be safer than ever, for she is now on more of an even keel all round, and experts state there is no danger of her toppling either way. We believe it is proposed, however, with a view of making assurance doubly sure, to drive piles round her before the actual work of lifting is carried out.

It may be noted that in the *Daily Graphic* of the 5th ult. will be found some reproductions from instantaneous photographs of the dredger before her second disaster.

RICKSHA COOLIES' HOUSING SCHEME.

We understand that in view of the intention of the Government to issue 300 additional licenses for rickshas in the colony, a number of well-known Chinamen intend to form a syndicate for the purpose of carrying out the conditions of the notification published in last week's *Government Gazette* on the subject. There are at present over 500 public rickshas plying for hire within the colony, and now the number is to be increased to over eight hundred. We understand, that the idea of the syndicate is to construct upon a favourable site at West Point, a large building capable of housing nearly one-half of the men with their vehicles.

The plan, which will be submitted to the Captain Superintendent of Police, shows that on the ground floor there will be a large hall, so to speak, wherein the rickshas can be stored at night, and taken out in the morning: on the upper floors cubicles will be built, and sleeping accommodation furnished for the coolies, while at the rear will be erected bath-houses, latrines, and lavatories in the most approved style. We are informed that on each side of the building grass-plots will be laid out, and provision made for the recreation of the inmates. We have it on good authority that the project has taken definite shape, and on the local Government approving the plans, steps will at once be taken to secure an eligible site for a similar building at East Point, thus supplying the much needed house accommodation for the whole of the ricksha coolies in the colony.

Anent the above, we are now enabled to state that the necessary plans have been prepared and will be at once submitted to the Government. The site chosen for the building is Marine Lot 205, and the area of the space set apart for coach-house accommodation is 4,082 square feet. There will be three floors to the building, each containing 2,294 square feet. The rear of the lot will be devoted to kitchens, bath-rooms, privies and wash-houses, and at the front there will be a spacious verandah. Mr. John Lemm of Queen's Road Central is the architect.

FOOD COMMISSION REPORT.

The following report is published in the *Gazette*, signed by Messrs. E. Osborne, A. M. Marshall, F. Maitland, Fung Wa Chun, and (Dr.) W. Hartigan:—

(1) A number of meetings were held, witnesses examined, and a mass of information obtained from Steamship Lines, Hotels, the Gaol, the Government Civil Hospital, Military Authorities, and other sources.

(2) An advertisement asking information from householders was inserted in the local papers, to which 8 persons (ladies) replied.

(3) The following table shows the percentage of rise in the wholesale and retail prices in 5 years:—

Articles.	Wholesale.	Retail.
Bread,	—	20 per cent.
Fish,	13 per cent.	50 "
Beef,	33 "	33 "
Mutton,	25 "	45 "
Eggs,	50 "	80 "
Fowls,	45 "	40 "
Ducks,	50 "	59 "
Potatoes,	25 "	—
Firewood,	90 "	95 "
Ground Nut Oil, 110 "	—	100 "
Rice,	33 "	33 "

(4) Beyond natural fluctuations of supply and demand, the main causes of this increase have been:—

(a) Depreciation of Silver.

(b) Increased Cost of Rice.

(c) West River Piracy.

(d) Increased Rents.

(e) Enforcement of Sanitary Laws.

(5) The augmentation of the Military and Naval forces in Hongkong and Manila has contributed towards a rise in certain commodities, as the sources of supply are limited and take time to accommodate themselves to the increased demands.

(6) Whilst it is difficult by means of direct evidence to prove that a combination exist with the object of keeping up the price of meat, the fact that practically the whole supply is in the hands of two men, who acknowledge being supported by a syndicate, and from whom other market butchers buy, must tend to crush other individual effort and enterprise, give them a monopoly, and enable them to regulate prices as they please. The fact also that the two individuals put forward as owners of this large business in a trade which has a world-wide reputation for being most lucrative, swore they have been losing money in it during three consecutive years, and that during the whole course of their examination they were manifestly prevaricating and concealing the truth, makes all evidence on this point most unreliable.

(7) We consider that market rents are not excessive (except in particularly choice situations) and have not contributed to the increase. At the same time we regard rents as a tax on food, and think they should be kept as low as possible.

(8) Our enquiries have failed to suggest any practical remedies of real value, and, bearing in mind the many objections there are to legislative interference in trade affairs, we can only make the following recommendations:—

(a) That increased Market accommodation be provided, and meanwhile, in order to relieve pressure on existing Markets, that fruit and vegetables be sold outside in licensed shops.

(b) That Markets be used for the sale of perishable food only, Biscuits, Hams, Tinned Meat, Jams and such like stores should not be sold in Markets, as the letting of stalls for such purposes tends to crowd out the legitimate vendors of fresh produce.

(c) That further endeavours be made to stamp out piracy.

(d) The cheapening of rents by opening new building areas with means of conveyance by tramways and ferries.

(e) The reduction of Market rents to such level as will provide just sufficient funds to cover interest on capital and working expenses. Markets should not be a source of profit.

(f) The encouragement of foreign ladies to make their own purchases by having the Markets kept clean and by clearing the passages of loafers.

(9) We recommend that an attempt be made to encourage the villagers of the New Territory to breed cattle by providing them with funds

for the purchase of stock (to be repaid when the animal is brought to market) or with heifers from a Government stockyard.

(10) We also recommend that an attempt be made to induce them to grow vegetables and rear poultry, and suggest that attached to each Police Station should be a European gardener whose business, assisted by Chinese, it would be to cultivate vegetables as an object lesson to surrounding natives and to provide them with seed imported by Government.

(11) We specially recommend that trials be made in the New Territory (Shatin Valley for instance) in growing Potatoes.

The best Potatoes sold in Hongkong are those grown at Macao, and it does not appear unreasonable to suppose that what will grow near Macao will grow equally well in the New Territory.

(12) We desire to state in conclusion that the delay in the publication of the food commission report has been due to the Chairman of the commission being unable to afford the time for the prosecution of the enquiry and the preparation of the report.

The following is Mr. Francis's letter with regard to the delay in the report:—

Hongkong, 20th December, 1900.

Sir,—I have, within the last hour, received from Messrs. Osborne, Marshall, Maitland, Fung Wa Chun and Hartigan, members of the Food Supply Commission of which I have the honour to be chairman, a copy of a report signed by them and sent in to you with a covering letter dated the 18th instant, of which they also sent me a copy. I received from them at the same time a joint letter addressed to myself, of which it appears they have also sent you a copy.

I have no objection to make to the report they have sent in to you on the subject-matter of the inquiry. It embodies in brief the conclusions at which we unanimously arrived. I should have had very much pleasure in signing it if they had asked me to do so.

I only wish to correct one trifling mistake in the last paragraph, which runs as follows:—

"(12) We desire to state, in conclusion, that the delay in the publication of the Food Commission report has been due to the Chairman of the Commission being unable to afford time for the prosecution of the inquiry and the preparation of the report."

There was no delay in the prosecution of the inquiry. The members were unable to sit for more than two days in the week for a couple of hours each day, and the taking of evidence was proceeded with with all due diligence, and was completed in July last. The delay has been in the preparation of the draft report, and I regret to say that my time was so fully occupied with my own business that I could not get it completed in time to satisfy the impatience of my colleagues. I am unable myself to see that there was any very great urgency. I was preparing a very full and detailed report, two-thirds of which had been completed and approved by Mr. Marshall, to whom I sent it a short time ago, with a request that he would, as I was so full of work, finish it for me, he being fully acquainted with my views, and concurring in them.

Instead of doing so, a meeting of the other members of the Commission was held, to which I was not summoned, and the report prepared which has been sent you.

I probably ought not to have accepted the appointment as a member or chairman of the Commission knowing how fully occupied I am in my profession at all times. If I have put the Government to any inconvenience by so doing I apologise to the Government and to the public.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient Servant.

JNO. J. FRANCIS.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
&c., &c., &c.

The U.S.S. *Wisconsin*, a sister ship to the *Alabama*, which was built at the Union Iron Works, San Francisco, and which is constructed almost on the lines of the U.S.S. *Kentucky*, but without the superimposed turrets, is coming out East, and will probably call at Hongkong during the early part of next month.

HONGKONG'S FINANCES.

The following are the Financial Statement for 1900 and the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony, as published in the *Gazette* :—

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1900.

LOAN ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To inscribed stock loan at 3½ per cent. interest, to be paid off on the 15th April, 1943	341,799.15	15	1

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By sinking fund	16,485.13	13	2

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES,
On the 31st December, 1900.

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Subsidiary coins		953,000.00	
Coins in transit		970,000.00	
Arrears of taxes		804.32	
Arrears of Crown rent		36,332.14	
Arrears of land revenue, new territory ..		98,490.00	
Arrears—miscellaneous		1,890.00	
Advances		51,678.39	
Suspense house service		103.00	
Profit, Money Order Office		8,000.30	
Water account		831.91	
Suspense account		338.73	
Total assets	\$2,126,483.49		
LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Military contribution		54,405.78	
Contribution towards barrack services for 1900		45,000.00	
Deposits not available		469,579.03	
Refund of taxes		2,300.00	
Officers' remittances		16,867.15	
Money order remittances		25,548.87	
Transit charges, General Post Office		7,336.00	
Civil pensions		17,500.00	
Police pensions		14,200.00	
Private drainage works		292.36	
Public works		34,773.46	
Miscellaneous		9,500.80	
Balance overdrawn		328,393.35	
Total liabilities	\$1,025,702.80		
Balance *	\$1,100,780.69		
	\$2,126,483.49		

* Not including \$10 415.82, value of silver at Mint.
Treasury,
Hongkong, 29th March, 1901.

THEATRE ROYAL.

OPENING NIGHTS OF THE BROUGH COMPANY.

It is now a very long time since Hongkong has had the opportunity of seeing at the Theatre anything in the nature of genuine drama. Of musical comedy during the past two years we have had no lack, and we all have vivid recollections of the best which the Far East has to offer in this popular variety of entertainment. But, with no reflections whatever on the undoubted abilities of some of our visitors, we may safely say that the exposition of a different form of dramatic art has been looked forward to with pleasant anticipation. After a time there comes satiety even of the most popular examples of that modern growth which for convenience we label by the name of "musical comedy." The Brough Company brings to us again after the lapse of three years what is undoubtedly a higher kind of theatrical performance. In modern British dramatic history comedy is the branch in which our native playwrights have been most successful, and our visitors introduce us to some of the best specimens of their skill. In Mr. C. Haddon Chambers's four-act play, *The Tyranny of Tears*, we saw on Tuesday night, 16th inst., a play which only those of us who have been home quite recently have had the opportunity of witnessing. Not perhaps Mr. Haddon Chambers's best production, this "comedy of temperament" has nevertheless much to recommend it to us. The story of the successful novelist, Clement Parbury, and his too tearful wife, who contrives, unwittingly to render his life almost a burden to him, and even to act as a hindrance to his career, is not a complex one. The text is given in Parbury's own words:—"If I wish to dine with a friend—tears! Or to go on a walking tour for two or three day—tears! Or to spend an evening at the Club—tears! Tears, tears, and—No, no!" In spite, however, of this too damp environment he loves his wife as much as she loves him, and therefore he endures. Now Parbury, like every right-minded novelist, has his novels typewritten, and for this purpose employs a secretary, Clara Woodward, a young lady who is not blind to the situation and pities the

husband. Unfortunately she carries her pity so far as on one occasion to kiss Parbury's photograph (though she is not at all in love with him), and it happens that Mrs. Parbury sees her and expects her dismissal. The secretary refuses to leave unless sent away by her employer himself; she comes of the parson's proverbial large family, to which she does not yearn to return. Parbury will not dismiss her without a reason; and neither will give him the true one. Finally his wife leaves him in indignation at his attitude, which is not a little stiffened by the remarks of a bachelor friend who laughs at his marital subjection. The household continues half a day without the tearful Mrs. Parbury, and the friend, George Gunning, takes the opportunity of getting engaged to Miss Woodward. This relieves the situation; Mrs. Parbury is reassured about her husband and returns to her home; and all is peace, without tears.

In the performance on Wednesday night the Brough Company gave a most excellent account of themselves, as indeed we had been led to expect from the accounts of those who have seen them before, in this port and elsewhere. For the part of Clement Parbury Mr. Brough himself is admirably fitted. He gave a most natural and sympathetic rendering of the part, and those who have not seen him before were quite able to understand how it is that he has so wide a reputation wherever he has played. His scenes with Miss Grace Noble, who was the Mrs. Parbury of last night, were most convincingly rendered. Miss Noble was charming in the role of the tearful wife and quite reconciled the audience to a rather difficult part. In one point only can we suggest any improvement. In the reconciliation scene both performers dropped their voices so as to render hearing difficult except in the front seats in the house. Otherwise the scene was a thorough success. Mrs. Brough as Clara Woodward, was excellently suited, and though the part itself is by no means an easy one to present naturally she never for a moment showed any trace of effort. Mr. W. T. Lovell was a humorous, somewhat angular, but always realistic George Gunning. Mr. Dartrey as Colonel Armytage was—"Give me the word," as he says—admirably portrayed. Miss Brown and Mr. Hards as the servants completed the cast and played their part to complete satisfaction.

Thursday night this clever company of players produced Henry Arthur Jones' brilliant comedy, and those who had the pleasure of witnessing its initial production at the Criterion Theatre, London, four years ago, are bound to admit that last night's performance, in comparison, did Mr. Brough and his talented supporters infinite credit. The majority of local playgoers will agree with us when we state that to have witnessed Mr. Brough's performance of *The Tyranny of Tears* and *The Liars* is an experience which may be likened unto that enjoyed by those whose privilege it is to be able to visit a West End theatre when they so desire. Mr. Brough has brought here one of the most talented dramatic companies that we have seen perform locally, and one fitted in every way to produce the clever society comedies in its repertoire. Although the attendances at the performances have been fairly large, we should like to have seen the theatre filled to its utmost capacity every evening, for such alone would be a deserving recognition of the enterprise of Mr. and Mrs. Brough in visiting Hongkong with such a body of artists, who are so far above the average theatrical company who visit us. The attendance at the theatre last night was very large, H.E. the Governor, Lady Blake and Miss Blake being present.

The Liars is perhaps the best piece which the Brough Co. produce, no less than seventeen taking part in it. It has been our lot to see very often the chiefs of the company good and the balance the reverse, but with the Broughs are all artists who know their business, and whose united efforts are bound to secure success.

The acting was splendid. We doubt if a piece has been so artistically played or more powerfully produced than that enacted last evening. Mr. Brough, as Colonel Sir Christopher Deering, filled a leading part with his accustomed brilliance, and the same may be said of Mrs. Brough as Lady Jessica. Mr. Lovell, as

Falkner, sustained his most difficult part with excellence. Lady Tatton was skilfully and vivaciously represented by Miss Temple, and Dolly Coke admirably by Miss Martheze. Mr. Leslie Victor was very amusing as Freddie, as was also Mr. Dartrey as Archibald Coke. The whole of the parts were most admirably taken—the waiter, Mr. G. MacMahon creating much amusement. The actors were vociferously applauded at the close of each act, and were called before the curtain at the finish.

The toilettes of the ladies were very charming, and the scenery was most artistic.

THE WEST RIVER DISASTER.

[FROM OUR CANTON CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 13th April.

ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.

Owing to a breakdown of the telegraph wires my message was unable to be transmitted. The following details will prove of interest :—

A fatal collision has occurred on the West River between the s.s. *Hing Fei* and the s.s. *Sanchow*. The former vessel was bound from Wuchow to Hongkong on Wednesday morning last, and when she had reached a spot just above the Shiu Hing Gorge she met with the *Sanchow*, on her passage from Canton to Wuchow. How the collision was directly brought about remains yet to be seen; all that is known at present is that the *Hing Fei* crashed into the *Sanchow*, sinking her in about a few minutes, and hurling her human freight of nearly four score into the river. Over sixty passengers have been drowned, most of them being emigrants from the Straits and California who were returning to their homes with the savings of years. The *Hing Fei* received considerably injury by the impact, but she kept afloat, and is now detained by the authorities at Canton pending an enquiry into the disaster. Over \$10,000 in specie have gone down with the vessel, the only part of which now remaining to be seen above the surface of the water being the topmast and funnel.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 15th April.

MACAO'S PROTEST AGAINST MANCHURIAN CONVENTION.

It is said that the Chinese residents of Macao have sent a petition to the Viceroy at Canton, requesting His Excellency to use his best endeavours to protest against the Russo-Chinese Convention with reference to Manchuria. The petition is signed by nearly all the influential and well-to-do merchants, and bears over a hundred signatures, headed by that of a zealous patriot of the name of Chung A Kuyin, a graduate of the second degree—equivalent to our B.A. He is a native of Heungshan. The signatories have also despatched a telegram to the Grand Council of State at Hsian, to Prince Ching, H.E. Li Hung-chang and Liu Kung-yi on the same subject.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST REBELLION.

In the district of Ko Yow there are mountain fastnesses covered with large trees, thick bushes, and deep forests, where robbers and outlaws have established their head quarters. As of late rumours have been circulated that they have manifested a desire and are making preparations to start a fresh rebellion, the Sew Hing prefect has been charged with the command of four On Yung regiments to proceed to suppress it.

A REQUIEM FOR THE BOXER'S VICTIMS.

On the mountain of Sai Chin, in the Nam Hoi district, there is what is called a "white cloud grotto." In the grotto there is a temple which is called "the temple of the fountain-genii" where there are a lot of Taoist priests and hermits, mostly men of means, retired gentry, officials, and merchants, who, having relinquished the pomps and vanities of this world, have chosen this retreat as the quietest spot where to pass their days in prayer and charitable acts. As during the crisis at Peking last year a large number of innocent people were said to have been killed

by the Boxers, they have proposed to hold a requiem service on the 15th of the 3rd Moon (3rd May) in the temple for the repose of their souls.

THE CATS AND THE RATS.

As I said in my letter of the 1st inst. the most notorious brigands of Salchin are Fuchan Hoi and Ao Sun, and next come Luk Kin, Luk Hin, and Lee Chiu, &c. Although they (with the exception of Ao Sun) have surrendered nominally and taken command in the Imperial armies yet they are still thieves all the same; for they are still holding intercourse with and protecting their fraternity. About the end of last month Luk Kin was ordered to take command of two guard boats and proceed to the river to capture and destroy pirates. He was seen also to take several junks laden with firewood. When he passed Shun Tak he anchored his boats in the Yeong Kau river, where the comrades of Ao Sun are levying blackmail. As soon as they heard that Luk Kin had arrived the thieves went on board to pay a call. Luk Kin received them very civilly and treated them as if they were his brothers. What arms and ammunition there were on board the thieves examined and handled. They were treated to supper and opium, and the so-called "braves of the guardboats went on shore with them for a walk and took them to a eating-house to eat at the same table, as if there were no motives for suspicion. This is what the Chinese call "the cats and rats eating and sleeping together."

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the [opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

St. Paul's College,
12th April, 1901.

SIR,—You state in your issue of this morning that "Cases almost as bad" (as that in which Kiaochau was obtained by Germany) "when the martyrdom of a missionary has resulted in a large profit—not to his family, but—to his society or his country, can be supplied readily from the recent history of the intercourse between Europe and China." May I ask you kindly to supply us with information about these cases? Personally I do not know of one such case. During the past ten years more than twelve Europeans connected with three Church of England Societies have been killed in China, and in no case has any "blood-money" been asked for. So far as my information goes, all Protestant Missionary Societies agree with, and have acted on, the principles advocated in your article, with regard to this matter.—I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

J. C. VICTORIA.

[What we had in mind when we wrote the sentence to which the Rt. Rev. Bishop refers was the general conduct of France toward China, from a period as far back as 1857. Mr. Michie's chapter in *The Englishman in China* on the French protectorate of Christians briefly illustrates the point. We had no wish to imply that all countries used their missionaries as pawns in the political game. Indeed it has been only too evident that Great Britain has been backward in protesting against outrages on her subjects engaged in missionary work. But in viewing the missionary question as a whole it is impossible to leave out the errors committed by one particular section. For instance, if we say that missionaries are responsible for taking young children into the interior of China, we may be accused by the Roman Catholic missionaries of wronging them. We ask our correspondent—Has not the missionary cause as a whole suffered in China from the impression that the European Powers are willing to use their countrymen as political agents instead of simple preachers of Christianity? We have always recognised that it is an admirable point in the work of the Church of England missions, among others, that they do not lend themselves to this disreputable policy.—Ed. D.P.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

C.M.S. House, West Point, Hongkong,
12th April.

SIR,—In your issue of this morning, commenting upon the situation in China, you say "no more vicious principle has ever been upheld by Western arms in China than this, that the life of a foreign preacher can and must be paid for in money or land for his country's benefit." Most right thinking people will agree with you in this, and I should hope would also strongly disapprove of a Missionary Society making profit out of the death of any of its agents in China.

In a preceding paragraph you venture to assert that a charge of this kind can be justly made against some societies at work in China. Your grounds for saying so are doubtless known to yourself, and you consider them sufficient for the statement.

Will you allow me to speak for the Church Missionary Society, and refer to its action in connection with the terrible tragedy which took place at Hwa Sang in the Fohkien Province in August, 1895, when the Rev. R. W. Stewart and Mrs. Stewart and their companions were murdered? In the Society's official record (*P. 587, Vol. iii. History of the C.M.S.*) it is thus referred to and the conduct of the Society summarised:—

"When Lord Salisbury inquired of the C.M.S. and C.E.Z.M.S. what compensation he was to press for on account of the Hwa Sang massacre, both Societies replied that they would accept none. Any money paid might have been regarded in China as an indemnity for the lives of the missionaries, and both committees were anxious to avoid even the appearance of vindictiveness. In due course Lord Salisbury wrote to the C.M.S. that the Chinese authorities were much impressed by the high-minded attitude of the Societies."

The Tsungli Yamen informed Sir Claude Macdonald, the British Minister, that the refusal to accept compensation commanded the Yamen's profound respect and esteem, and that every effort would be made to prevent future disturbances.

I hope, sir, that your readers will understand that your remarks do not refer to the Church Missionary Society.—I am, yours, etc.,

W. BANISTER,

Secretary,
Church Missionary Society.

A MEMORIAL TO THE LATE QUEEN

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 15th April.

SIR,—With reference to my letter and your leader of the 9th instant re a memorial to our late Queen, I have sounded a number of men, and find that with a few exceptions there appears to be little or no interest in undertaking anything further just now. This is, of course, not from any want of loyalty, but from a pretty general feeling of disappointment at the results of the late public subscriptions.

The Queen's statue can hardly be called a success, and to our discredit it lay for years in the godowns before it was erected. Since then it has had a cast-iron railing put round it, which is entirely out of keeping with it, and the statue itself has never been completed.

The Jubilee Road still remains a myth, though the public subscribed something like \$96,000, and the Government undertook to add a like sum.

The Women's Hospital has been commenced at the Peak, but it can never be the hospital to which I thought I was subscribing; and this is, I know, the opinion of many other men.

With these examples before us, it is not surprising that men do not care to go in for anything new till they see some more results for what they have already subscribed to; still I think something can and ought to be done, and I therefore beg to make the following suggestions:—

1. That His Excellency the Governor be asked to dedicate the New Clock Tower at Blake Pier as a memorial to our late Queen.

It would not only be a fitting memorial, but, it having been decided to build this Clock Tower out of public funds, no subscription would be required.

2. That the public, having subscribed for the Jubilee Statue of our late Queen, should complete that work by the erection of the bronzes at the four corners of the canopy. This would complete the original design and vastly improve the appearance of the whole. It would only cost a few hundred pounds to do, and surely there should be no trouble in raising such a sum.

We should thus not only have a suitable memorial to our late Queen, but also complete a work which has been standing unfinished for too long.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

R. K. LEIGH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 16th April.

SIR,—With reference to Mr. R. K. Leigh's letters, and the public's desire for a Memorial to Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria, allow me to offer a few suggestions.

For Hongkong which is the third shipping port in the world, the "Gibraltar" of the east and the chief entrepot for South China, we want something majestic, impressive and lasting, something that will attract one's attention and live in the mind's eye.

The present Jubilee Queen's Statue is completely out of touch with the majestic piles of buildings which are going up around it. It is simply dwarfed.

At a distance it is unrecognisable, and puts one in mind of a gigantic street fountain, and with its pedestal and Indian canopy. Asiatics would go away with the impression that it is a "joss." Excuse the remark.

I don't think the addition of bronzes at the corners of the canopy would vastly improve the appearance of the Statue, as suggested by Mr. Leigh. In fact, it would only create confusion. Again, the suggestion regarding the Clock Tower will, I am afraid, meet with disfavour.

In my humble opinion the Jubilee Memorial should be transferred to a place with more congenial surroundings, and the site thus vacated should be utilised for the erection of a gigantic Memorial Statue similar to the one in front of St. Paul's Cathedral, or the ones at Cape Town and Malta, which represent the Queen in a standing position with the globe and sceptre in her hands. Such statues are something to admire and remember.

If a thing is worth doing it should be done well. Standing in all her Regal Majesty, the Queen is at once recognised by the great and small of her millions of loyal subjects.—Yours, etc.,

TSE TSAN TAI.

THE RATEPAYER'S ELECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

13th April.

SIR,—Referring to the ratepayer's meeting of to-day, I think the smallness of the attendance can be largely accounted for by the fact of the inconvenience of the hour named, viz., 4 p.m.

There are certainly many ratepayers who could not attend at that time, but who might be able to do so at 5.15 p.m. The poll should then remain open till 7 p.m.—

SPECTATOR.

A PUBLIC DANGER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 15th April.

SIR,—Are the Capt. Superintendent of Police, the Director of Public Works, and the members of the Sanitary Board aware that a public thoroughfare between No. 1, Queen's Road East and the military married quarters on the hill is being cut up and blocked up by a crowd of Chinese coolies?

This is the only suitable road in the vicinity which can be trained to connect Queen's Road East with the Kennedy and Macdonald Roads, and I have been informed that it is the intention of the Government to train this road. How is it, then, that these people have been permitted to cut up this road and entirely block it up for private use? This road connects the inhabited street at the back of Wing Fung Lane West, and in case of fire the firemen would have to go right round to Wing Fung Street!

Again, the site which has been selected will be occupied as a timber yard and coolies' quarters. This will not only be most dangerous to the neighbouring houses in case of fire, but the timber will prove the best hiding place for thieves and other bad characters. It was not long ago that some thieves robbed the adjoining military married quarters and hid their spoil in this very locality.

The Chinese coolies will also accommodate themselves and utilise the place as a "private" latrine, and it must not be forgotten that this site is immediately overlooked by the married quarters and other respectable Chinese family houses close by.

The Sanitary Board has been bothered enough by complaints from Kowloon, and surely it does not wish to be bothered again by complaints from this quarter.

Hoping these few lines will be sufficient to induce the authorities concerned to take immediate action,—I am, yours, etc.,

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LIMITED.

The twelfth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in the Green Island Cement Co., Limited, was held on Saturday, the 13th inst. Mr. R. Shewan, chairman, presided, and the other gentlemen present were—Messrs Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., D. Gillies, C. Ewens (consulting committee), A. Babington, R. K. Leigh, R. C. Wilcox, T. H. Reid, Fung Wa Chun and Sui Un.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, printed copies of the Report and Accounts have been in your hands for some days past, so, if you have no objection, we will dispense with reading them now. A profit of about \$111,000, as against \$70,000 last year, is satisfactory, but our Dividend appears smaller as it has to be paid on the much larger capital of nearly \$1,000,000. We had the benefit last year of the first installation at Hok Un, though not to its full extent, while the second installation, for which fresh capital was subscribed by you, a year ago, will not, owing to the difficulty of getting machinery made at home in anything like reasonable time, be in a position to turn out any cement before next July at the earliest, and when everything is ready, it takes so long to train and educate the burners and other men for their special work that it will be at least another year before the last kiln is burning. You will consequently understand that, although we are paying a dividend this year on a capital of roughly \$1,000,000 at least \$250,000 of this has been quite unproductive. Under these circumstances, I think that shareholders should find the report a satisfactory one, and I feel sure we may look forward with confidence to the future of the Company. Our new kilns have continued to give us more and more satisfaction, their output this year having been considerably beyond our highest estimates. The quality of the cement itself is now admitted to be of the highest, and no better proof of this can, I think, be given than the fact that the builders of the new Admiralty Dock have made a contract with us and are using the cement freely under the most severe test conditions as to tensile strength, &c. As for markets, we would not of course have recommended the fresh extension at Hok Un had we felt any doubt on this subject, nor do we feel any now. We are selling to-day all we can make, and could sell more, and if we may at first have to accept lower prices in order to get in on new markets and dispose of our increased production, we shall not have to do so long. In this Colony, I am glad to say we have pretty well overcome the competition of cheap cement from home, and I have no doubt it is only a question of a little time before our friends elsewhere will appreciate the advantages of using a *bona fide* Portland Cement of the best quality, in place of low-grade Japanese and other kinds. At Macao, we have succeeded in adding a few improvements, but our limit of output has been reached, and except in the way of economising the cost of making, there is little more that we can do there. At Hok Un, in spite of troubles which are all in the day's work, we have

made steady progress, and much credit should be given to our Managers there for the way in which they have overcome the difficulties they have had to encounter in training raw hands for the peculiar work required at the kilns, etc. At Deep Water Bay, we have gone on pulling down the old brick and pipe kilns and replacing them by larger and more economical ones, and, although on a moderate scale, the result is certainly satisfactory. The question of labour has given us some trouble; the cost of living, as you know, has risen greatly in the Colony of late, and it has been impossible for us to keep our best men by us without increasing their pay, and of course higher wages means greater cost of production. It is only a case of supply and demand, but in spite of those gentlemen who write and talk so glibly of China's teeming millions, I cannot see that, in this Colony at any rate, the supply of labour is at all keeping pace with the demand. Turning to the Accounts, there is nothing that I can see that requires explanation, but I may remark that we have no longer any credit balance at our Bankers, recent payments on account of the new extension at Hok Un having absorbed it all, and left a balance on the other side, which will be made still larger when our Dividend of nearly \$80,000 is paid. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any question from shareholders.

No questions being asked, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. LEIGH, the report and accounts, as presented, were adopted and passed.

Mr. WILCOX proposed, and Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN seconded, that the following gentlemen be re-elected the Consulting Committee, viz:—Messrs. Chater, Ewens, Dickson, and Gillies. Carried.

Messrs F. Henderson and W. H. Potts, who audited the accounts last year, were re-elected for the ensuing year, on the motion of Mr. REID, seconded by Mr. CHATER.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I am much obliged to you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

CHINA BORNEO CO., LIMITED.

The second ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders was held at the company's offices, 4, Queen's Buildings, at noon, on Saturday, the 13th inst. Mr. A. G. Wood, chairman, presided, and there were present the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Mr. E. Osborne (consulting Committee), and Messrs. C. S. Sharp, W. Parlance, W. H. Wickham, O. Baptista, and J. Wheelley, manager.

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have now been in your hands for some days, and I presume there is no objection to their being taken as read. The Company's operations during the year, notwithstanding the troubles in North China, which interfered with local demand for some months, show a very satisfactory result, and we hope you will approve our recommendations as to the disposal of the sum at credit of profit and loss; this sum (\$72,189.90) is, as you are aware, the result of two years' working, and we have recommended the somewhat large dividend of 25 per cent. on the subscribed capital, in consideration of this. The volume of this Company's business, like most others, depends on supply and demand, and is consequently subject to fluctuation, and we think it policy to provide for this, and for this reason we have recommended a fairly large sum being carried to reserve; and I have no doubt shareholders will agree to a continuance of this policy when results permit, which must strengthen the Company's position and safeguard shareholders' interests. I am glad to be able to say that, so far, the result for the current year is quite satisfactory. The various properties have been well maintained, and are all in good order. Finally, I have again to say that we are indebted for these good results to the excellent management of Mr. Wheelley, here, and Mr. Darby, in Sandakan, who have thereby earned our warm acknowledgements of their services. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be glad to answer any questions.

Mr. PARLANE—May I ask, Mr. Chairman, about the land and house property? It seems a very small item in the assets. I was under the impression that the old company was possessed of very extensive concessions both of tobacco and timber land. It seems to me such a very small item that I don't quite understand it.

Mr. WHEELLEY—We have only about five or six town lots in Sandakan and about 7,000 acres of tobacco land on the Kinabatangan River. The tobacco land was given us at simply nominal value, and two-thirds of it is always under water.

Mr. PARLANE—It seems such a small item; I thought the old Company had more extensive concessions.

Mr. WHEELLEY—The land is well worth the amount at which it is entered in the Company's books.

There were no further questions, and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. WICKHAM—I beg to second the chairman's motion. The thanks of the shareholders are due to the consulting committee and the manager for the most excellent report that has been presented.

The motion was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. WICKHAM, seconded by Mr. Parlance, the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., was re-elected to the consulting committee.

Mr. F. Henderson was re-elected auditor, on the motion of Mr. BAPTISTA, seconded by Mr. Parlance.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all there is to say, gentlemen, except that dividend warrants will be obtained on Monday. Shareholders will kindly apply at the office here for them.

CHINA LIGHT AND POWER CO., LIMITED.

A statutory meeting of the above Company was held at the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., on Saturday, the 13th inst. There were present, Messrs. R. Shewan (chairman), D. Gillies, Fung Wah Chun, A. Babington, A. Reid, J. M. McMurtrie, and J. Duff (secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—This Company was, as all are aware, registered on the 25th of January, and this meeting is therefore held in accordance with the law which requires us to hold a meeting of shareholders within four months from that date. Electric Light Companies require as a rule rather a long time to grow to fruition, so much time being necessarily consumed in making the installation, but as regards Canton, we are fortunate in that respect, as we took over a going concern there. It is true it was not going very well then, but I am pleased to say that things are different now. We had, of course, to make drastic changes from the former Chinese regime, and much time was, of course, lost in doing this and getting fresh supplies of material, etc., from home. These latter have now arrived, and we shall be kept busy, for some time to come, in fitting up further installations for the new orders we have in hand, both on Shameen and in the Chinese city of Canton. On Shameen the lighting is, of course, on a limited scale, but in the city there seems every prospect of our doing a large and growing business, as in consequence of the fear of fire, which very naturally haunts the minds of the shopkeepers, etc., in that crowded town, the Electric Light is growing in popularity every day. To such people as the proprietors of theatres, restaurants, flower-boats, etc., and to all those in trades which require late hours, the advantages of our light over kerosene are obvious; but Chinese-like, they waste time in the endeavour to drive a bargain and beat down our prices. The demand from such sources in a city like Canton should be very great, and produce a good revenue to the Company when all the necessary poles, wires and installations are complete. I may mention that the Company now derives a steady income from contracts to supply water and fire-extinguishing apparatus to various districts of the city in the event of fires, and this is a branch of our business that, with time and a little expenditure of capital we think can be enlarged considerably. At Kowloon, or rather at Hunghom, we are not in such a good

position, as our station is only in course of erection there, and at the rate of progress, common to most builders and contractors just now, it is impossible to say when the period of production over there will be reached. We hope, however, that from six to eight months will see us in a position to supply electric light to that part of the Colony, and when that time arrives we have every reason to believe that we shall find a good demand for the light. I have, of course, no accounts to lay before you, but I may perhaps say the capital of \$300,000 has all been subscribed, and, with a few trifling exceptions, paid up. That is all that occurs to me to say at present, but if any of you have any questions to ask, I shall endeavour to answer them to the best of my ability.

There were no questions, the CHAIRMAN thanked those attending, and the meeting came to an end.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The fifth annual general meeting of the Shareholders of Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, was held on the 16th inst at noon, Mr. H. Humphreys (Chairman), presided, and the others present were Messrs. C. Ewens, A. H. Mancell, J. S. Hagen, S. A. Joseph, W. E. Clement, R. M. Mehta and J. A. Jupp.

The CHAIRMAN, said—Gentlemen, as I presume you have all examined the report and statement of accounts, they having been in your hands for some days, I will, with your permission, follow the ordinary course, and take them as read. I think the only item in the accounts which requires explanation, is the amount \$1,301.02 under the heading of suspense account. This represents an amount stated by our Agents as owing for December, but as they gave no particulars, we must leave it to be adjusted in our next account. Attached to our report is a summary of the year's work by our Consulting Engineer, Mr. J. Whear Roberts, and I don't think I can add much to what he has there told you. The result of the year's work, although somewhat disappointing, after the good results obtained in 1899, does not justify us in taking a desponding view of our prospects. The total yield for the year under review is 2,431 ozs. 18 dwts. from 4,477 tons as against 4,535 ozs. 13 dwts. in 1899 from 6,596 tons and 2,367 ozs. 6 dwts. in 1898 from 6,383 tons; the average per ton being 10½ dwts. as against 13¼ dwts. in 1899 and 7.4 dwts. in 1898. The Working Account shows a loss on the year of \$9077.46, bringing the total loss on Working Account to date to \$13,211.38, not a very large amount, spread as it has been over four years, but of course no allowance has been made in the accounts for depreciation. We informed you, when we met together last year, that we proposed to do certain development work in the Mine, the chief of which was the sinking of the main shaft a further 100 feet, and the further driving of the 300 feet level south. On the advice of Mr. Roberts, we decided to go down 200 feet with the shaft, making 500 feet in all from the surface, as in his opinion, this will be a decisive and thorough test of the value of the mine, and, at the end of the year, the shaft was actually down 472 feet 6 inches, and has since been completed to 500 feet, and cross cutting for the reef is now going on. The 300 feet level south has been extended during the year a distance of 322 feet, and three distinct shutes of ore have been passed through, but the average a-say value still keeps too low to be payable. Nevertheless, if you have read Mr. Robert's report, you will see that he, at the time of writing, took a very hopeful view of our prospects for the current year, and we can only hope that his anticipations will be realised. At the same time, we cannot disguise the fact that our present position is somewhat critical. The Company's funds are running very low and everything depends on what we find at the 400 feet and 500 feet levels. If we strike anything payable at this depth, the future of the Company would seem to be assured, and we ought to have no difficulty in raising more capital to carry on, but, on the other hand, we may be again disappointed. Our results, so far this year, have shown a decided improvement on those for the corresponding period of last year, and I think we may reasonably hope for a continuance of the improvement at any

rate for some months to come. I will now read to you a telegram we have received from the mines giving the latest information as to the work done and the prospects for the future. Telegram dated 13th April, 1901.—Up to date have crushed 238 tons for a yield of 132 ozs. retorted gold. Mill ran nine days. The 500 feet level crosscut has been driven 32 feet, cutting into veins running parallel with the main vein, which assayed from 4 to 6 dwts. per ton. The crosscut is now in soft ground. These are very good indications. We have still 36 feet to drive to cut the vein. The Manager reports that the stone now being worked is likely to average 10 dwts. per ton and that they have a considerable quantity of this grade in sight. Before moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts, I shall be glad to answer any questions.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN moved that the Report and Accounts as presented be adopted.

Captain CLEMENTS seconded.

Carried.

Mr. JUPP proposed that Mr. W. H. Potts be re-elected auditor for the ensuing year.

Mr. MANCELL seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen.

The meeting then terminated.

GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of this company was held at the offices of the general agents, Messrs. Lütgens, Einmann and Company, 14, Des Vaux Road, on Thursday, at noon, when the subjoined resolution, which was passed at the extraordinary general meeting of the company on the 3rd instant, was submitted for confirmation as a special resolution:—“That the company be wound up voluntarily, and that Mr. Max Bennecke, the business manager of the company, be and he is hereby appointed liquidator for the purpose of such winding up.” Mr. A. Denison occupied the chair, and the other gentlemen present were Messrs. G. Atzenroth (Director), K. Edulji, Chan Kin Hoi, F. F. E. da Silva, Ellis Kelly, C. Osmund, and C. E. Osmund.

The notice calling the meeting having been read, the CHAIRMAN formally put the resolution to the meeting.

It was seconded by Mr. Kelly and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. There are one or two letters here, should anyone care to have a look at them.

THE YANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the 11th ordinary general meeting of shareholders, to be held at the offices of the Association, No. 26, The Bund, Shanghai, on Tuesday, the 23rd April, at 4 o'clock p.m.:—

The board of directors have now the pleasure to submit to the shareholders the annual report and audited statement of accounts and balance sheet to the 31st December, 1900.

Working Account, 1899 and former years.—This account shows a credit balance of \$250,286.34 against \$163,121.92 on the 30th December, 1899. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend to shareholders of 20 per cent. out of this account and the transfer of \$50,000 to the credit of reserve fund. The account will then stand as follows:—

Dividend of 20 per cent. (= \$12 per share)	\$96,000.00
To Reserve Fund	50,000.00
Balance to be carried forward	104,286.34

\$250,286.34

The dividend will be paid in taels at exchange 73. \$12 at Exo. 73=Taels 8.76 per share.

Working Account, 1900.—The net premium earned during 1900, after deducting return premium, re-insurance premium, &c., amount to \$687,119.70 against \$704,631.99 during 1899 and the account shows a balance at credit of \$305,865.23 on the 31st December last, which the directors recommend carrying forward.

In addition to the claims and losses paid during the year, which amount to \$343,488.37 (equal to 49.99 per cent. of the net premium), there are claims pending on known losses and casualties which are estimated at about \$140,000.

Reserve Fund.—After crediting this fund with \$50,000, as recommended above, the reserve fund will amount to \$600,000.

Exchange and Investment Fluctuation Account.—This account has been increased by \$15,074.53, and now amounts to \$57,744.21.

Sterling Exchange has been taken at 2s. 10½d. per tael (the demand rate on 31st December, 1900), and the relative value between dollars and taels at 73.

Investments.—The value on 31st December last has been taken for all the Association's investments.

DIRECTORS.

In accordance with the articles of association the present directors all retire from office, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Augustus White, who offers himself for re-election.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

W. S. JACKSON,
Secretary.

Shanghai, 2nd April, 1901.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

The following is the forty-second report of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited (Yokohama Shokin Ginko), presented to the shareholders at the half-yearly ordinary general meeting, held at the Head Office, Yokohama, on Saturday, 9th March:—

The gross profits of the Bank for the past half-year, including yen 163,695.052 brought forward from last accounts, amount to yen 5,972,348.502, of which yen 4,218,009.892 have been deducted for current expenses, interests, &c., leaving a balance of yen 1,754,338.610.

The directors now propose that yen 180,000.000 be added to the reserve fund, raising it to yen 8,310,000.000. From the remainder, the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of thirteen per cent. per annum, which will absorb yen 780,000.000 on old shares and yen 390,000.000 on new shares, making a total of yen 1,170,000.000.

The balance, yen 404,338.610, will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

NAGATANE SOMA,
Chairman.

Head Office, Yokohama, 9th March, 1901.

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.		Yen.
Capital paid up	18,000,000.000	
Reserve fund	8,130,000.000	
Reserve for doubtful debts	233,093.250	
Reserve for new building	315,423.110	
Deposits (current, fixed, etc.)	52,978,953.960	
Bills payable, bills rediscounted, acceptances, and other sums due by the bank	71,137,731.564	
Dividends unclaimed	4,094.230	
Amount brought forward from last account	163,695.052	
Net profit for the past half-year	1,590,643.558	
	Yen 152,603,634.724	

ASSETS.

		Yen.
Cash account—		
In hand	5,819,630.620	
At bankers	6,123,146.310	
	11,942,826.930	
Investments in public securities	23,860,188.550	
Bills discounted, loans, advances, &c.	45,104,751.710	
Bills receivable and other sums due to the bank	70,916,572.414	
Bullion and foreign money	173,405.870	
Bank premises, properties, furniture, &c.	605,889.250	
	Yen 152,603,634.724	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

		Yen.
To current expenses, interests, &c.	4,218,009.892	
To reserve fund	180,000.000	
To dividend—		
Yen 6.500 per share for 120,000 old shares—yen 780,000.000; and yen 3.250 per share for 120,000 new shares—yen 390,000.000	1,170,000.000	
To balance carried forward to next account	404,338.610	
	Yen 5,972,348.502	

By balance brought forward 31st December, 1899.....	Yen. 163,695.052
By amount of gross profits for the half-year ending 30th June, 1900.....	5,808,653.450
	Yen 5,972,348.502

31st December, 1900.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 12th April.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE.)

KANG-ON V. F. W. HALL AND CO.

This was an action brought by the plaintiffs, who are merchants in Wellington Street, to recover the sum of \$718 on an account for goods sold and delivered.

A representative of the plaintiff firm appeared and stated that the defendants carried on business in Wyndham Street. They had made promises time after time to pay the amount sued for.

The defendants failed to put in an appearance, and judgment went by default.

Tuesday, 16th April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

MATILDA HORTON V. JOHN JAMES COYLE.

This suit was down for hearing in the day's cause list, Mr. Grist appearing for the plaintiff, and Mr. Reece representing the defendant. It was brought to recover \$121.93, as to \$91.93 thereof being for board and lodging supplied by the plaintiff to the defendants' wife from 18th January to 21st March 1901, and as to the balance \$30 for money lent by the plaintiff to the defendant's wife for necessaries.

Mr. Grist said that the parties had come to terms, and he applied to the court for permission to withdraw the suit.

His Lordship consenting, the suit was withdrawn accordingly.

Thursday, 18th April.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G.

THE VITRIOL THROWING CASE.

Lo Tsoi was placed in the dock charged on two counts as follows:—

- (1) Throwing corrosive fluid with intent to harm.
- (2) Throwing corrosive fluid with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

To both counts he pleaded guilty.

There was a third count, that of assault occasioning bodily harm, to which the prisoner also pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Pollock, the Acting Attorney General, prosecuted, and the prisoner was undefended. The circumstances under which the crime for which the prisoner was charged, have already appeared in these columns. Mr. Francis George Reek who is employed in the Government dockyard, was proceeding to his work one morning in the month of March past when some one threw a corrosive fluid in his eyes, in the neighbourhood of Wing Street.

Asked what he had to say in defence, the prisoner said:—

Yeung Kun came to my place on March 12th. He came there to see me and another man named Lo Su. He said he wished me to do a certain thing for him. It was a matter of no importance and there was no fear about it. He said the storekeeper had a grudge against an Englishman. He offered to pay me \$10 for doing it, and, if anything happened afterwards, he would engage a solicitor for the defence. Yeung Kun called again next evening and pressed upon me to do this. He then asked me to go up to Wing Fuk Street and get some medicine water. I did so and met Yeung Kun in Wing Fuk Street. Yeung Kun took me down to a lane leading to the Praya. He then gave me a cent to buy a bowl. He gave me some medicine water, about half

a catty-weight. Yeung Kun then told me that as soon as I threw the medicine water I was to run away. He then pointed out an Englishman, and gave me instructions to pour the medicine water on him. Yeung Kun then went under the verandah, and I threw the water on the Englishman and ran away.

His Lordship said: Lo Tsoi, you have pleaded guilty to the commission of a very cruel and cowardly offence. That is to say, throwing nitric acid on the prosecutor with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Now, that is so serious an offence in the eye of the law that law provides a punishment for it, of imprisonment for life. I am very glad to see it is a very rare offence in this colony, and I hope will remain so. You had no grievance whatever against this prosecutor. Apparently you did not know him, and yet for a paltry sum of money you agreed to do this injury, and actually did it.

The Prisoner: I have not received any money as yet.

His Lordship. The sentence of the court upon you is that you be imprisoned for three years with hard labour.

Yeung Kum was then placed in the dock indicted on four counts in connection with the vitriol throwing outrage. They were (1) That on 14th March, throwing corrosive fluid with intent to burn Francis George Reek, (2) with intent to do grievous bodily harm, (3) with assaulting him, occasioning bodily harm, and (4) counselling, procuring and commanding Lo Tsoi to commit the crime of throwing corrosive fluid on Mr. Reek. The Acting Attorney General said that he had been furnished with information from the prisoner which had involved a European, who had been arrested in connection with the affair.

Asked if had anything to say, prisoner said: "A foreigner, who is employed in the same place as I am, the Naval Yard, asked me to do a certain thing. He was employed under Mr. Reek, the complainant, and they were not on good terms. He said that Mr. Reek always found fault with him. This man, on the 27th day of the 12th moon last Chinese year, asked me to get somebody to beat Mr. Reek. Every now and then he asked me if I had got anybody to do it, and he said that when the assault was committed, he would give me ten dollars. He again asked me about the assault on the morning of 4th March last. I told him I had not got anybody to do it. About a quarter past eleven on that morning, I met him, and he said he would get me to assault Mr. Reek in another way. He then took a small piece of red blotting paper out of his pocket and told me to take it to Watson's Dispensary to buy the stuff. I then went to a house and asked Cheung Yeung to buy it. He came back and said there was none for sale in Watson's. I then told him to go to the German Medical Hall. The people in the Medical Hall said the bottle was dirty. After washing the bottle, I told Cheung Yeung to buy half-a-pound, for which 40 cents was paid. I got 50 cents from the foreigner, who told me to buy this. Then I gave this stuff to Wong Hop to give it to Cheung Fu. Cheung Fu poured the contents of the bottle into the sea. I then went back and told the foreigner that people refused to do what he wanted. Lo Su then came and said that he had got Lo Tsoi to throw the fluid. Lo Tsoi, he said, was a man of courage, who was able to act as a thief. I sent the same Cheung Yeung to buy the stuff. He went with a dirty bottle, a samshu bottle. He had to bring it back and clean it. He again got the stuff, and handed it to Lo Tsoi. I am guilty of this crime. I ought not to have done it. Mr. Reek has done nothing to me, and if I had known the effect of the medicine water, I would not have had anything to do with it. Directly I saw Mr. Reek's face, I felt sorry for it. I admit everything, and humbly beg your lordship to pass a light sentence on me. That is all I have to say.

Mr. Robinson, who appeared for the prisoner, said that his client had been 10 years in the Yard, and great pressure had been brought to bear upon him in doing what he did. He asked that some consideration should be shown to his client, who, hitherto had borne a good character.

His Lordship in passing sentence said: Yeung Kung, just now Lo Tsoi pleaded

guilty to throwing this nitric acid on Mr. Reek with intent to burn him, and he was sentenced to imprisonment, with hard labour, for three years. You stand for trial on an indictment charging you with the same offence, and, on the depositions in the two cases, it appeared as if Lo Tsoi had committed this crime at your instigation and by your procuring. On the depositions you appear to be the principal in the matter, and he only the agent, and it certainly was my intention, if you were convicted on the indictment against you to pass a more severe sentence on you than I did on him. But now you set up a different story. You say you were pressed by someone in authority at the Naval Yard to commit this crime or procure its commission. That may be so or it may not be so. I can't say so at present because, of course, the facts are not before me in a proper way, but, from what you have said, and from what your Counsel has urged on your behalf, and also from what the Acting Attorney General has said, it may be so; therefore, I will give you the benefit of the doubt and assume that it may be so. That places you in the same position exactly as Lo Tsoi. That is to say, you have joined in committing this serious offence at the instigation and procurement of another person. The sentence, therefore, that must be passed upon you is, I think, the same that I passed upon Lo Tsoi, but at the same time if, upon the further trial and upon such investigation as the Governor may direct to be made, it appears that your statement is well-founded, I have little doubt that the Governor will take the matter into his careful consideration. The sentence of the Court upon you is that you be imprisoned with hard labour for three years.

THE OUTBREAK IN THE GAOL.

Mak So, Ip Sam, and Yeung Fuk, the first of whom behaved in a very defiant manner in the dock, were indicted for (1) wounding with intent to murder, (2) wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm. To the indictment he pleaded guilty. In answer to the usher they shook their heads and said "Yes! We intended to kill him. That was our intention."

The Acting Attorney General said these men were already undergoing long terms of imprisonment for offences, and it was a very serious case. Apparently, somebody outside the gaol must in some way or other have been in a league with them, and thrown over the wall weapons to these men. They seemed to have acted very quickly and in concert made a very brutal assault upon Mr. Craig.

Asked if they had anything to say, the first named prisoner said: I have a number of witnesses to speak about the ill-treatment, but I do not know if these witnesses have been called or not. The prosecutor not only ill-treated me, but he has ill-treated a great number to the extent of over a hundred. A great number of convicts' numbers were taken down, and they are willing to come forward and prove the ill-treatment.

His Lordship asked the prisoners why they had not called their witnesses for the defence in the lower court.

The prisoners replied that they had done so, but that the magistrate had stated their evidence would be taken in the Supreme Court.

His Lordship said he had often urged upon magistrates the necessity of taking all the evidence of the witness where it was possible, and not to place it on record that it would be called in that Court. Either Magistrates took the evidence of witnesses, or dismissed them altogether.

The Acting Attorney-General reminded His Lordship that the prisoners did state at the Magistracy that they wished to call a number of witnesses, and the Magistrate said it would be preferable to call them at the Supreme Court.

His Lordship: I have always tried to impress upon Magistrates that, if prisoners wish to call witnesses, the Magistrate should take them. They are there to call them and take their evidence and bind them over to give evidence at the Supreme Court if necessary. I always have tried to impress upon them that they are not to take lists of witnesses. They are there to examine them, or to decline to have anything to do with them. It is no embarrassing to this Court when there is a list of witnesses to be examined. Tell the prisoners, all of them, that if they can really make out a

case of grievance, they had better withdraw their plea and plead not guilty, so that it could be gone into, also that while it would be no defence in point of law, it could very much affect their sentences if they could prove it.

The Spokesman: Well, my lord, I have done the act. It is not for me to deny it. The only thing I wish your lordship to do is to clear the matter whether the alleged grievance exists or not. Of course, it is no use for me to go back to jail for eighteen years; I would rather die.

His Lordship—The only way I can go into that is by the case being heard.

The Spokesman: I accept your lordship's advice and ask your lordship to investigate the case clearly and fully.

The third prisoner added that the complainant had no business to cut down his food and pork.

The plea of quality was withdrawn, and the hearing of the indictment was then set down for hearing Friday.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY

Ho Hi and An Yeung On were charged with having, on 15th April, at Kowloon, robbed a woman named Wong Ku of two silver bangles.

The prisoners admitted stealing one bangle, and His Lordship passed sentence of five years' imprisonment, with hard labour, on each.

THE QUEEN'S ROAD WATCH-BURGLARY.

Ho Sin Cheung, Ho San Kan, and Leung Po were indicted for burgling the premises of Messrs. Droz, of Queen's Road Central. The circumstances of the case have already appeared in these columns. The following jury were empanelled:—

Messrs. Robert William Houghton, Charles Edward (Pearce, Michael, David Selas, James Duff, Alex. Horletz and Abdul Hoosem Abdul Rahunn.

The prisoners were undefended, and in the result the Jury found them guilty, and the first was sentenced to 18 months, the second to 12 months, and the third to 3 years' imprisonment with hard labour.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING.

LADIES' NOMINATION.

Shooting in the Ladies' Nomination competition, which was postponed from the 8th inst. on account of the inclemency of the weather, commenced on the 13th inst., at 3 p.m. The weather, somewhat dull in the earlier part of the day, kept up wonderfully well, and when firing started was almost as favourable as could be wished for. The range, 300 yards, is one that is generally found very awkward to shoot at, from the fact that the target, an eight-inch one, is the same as is used at 200 yards, and at the longer distance appears very small indeed. In spite of this difficulty, however, shooting was very good, Sergeant Bowery, for Mrs. Pullen, heading the list with 32, with Mr. J. Cramer, R.M., for Miss Blake, second, and Quartermaster-Sergeant Wallace, R.E., for Mrs. Wallace, third.

Amongst those present were H.E. the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.) and Miss Blake, and Sir John Carrington, C.M.G.

The following are the results in the Ladies' Nomination:—

NAME	SHOT FOR BY	TOTAL
Mrs. Pullen	Sergt. Bowery R.E.	32
Miss Blake	Mr. Cramer, R.U.	32
Mrs. Wallace	Q.M.S. Wallace, R.E.	31
Mrs. W. Stewart	Mr. W. Stewart	31
Mrs. Marshall	Mr. J. Marshall	31
Mrs. Robinson	Mr. Robinson	30
Mrs. D. J. Mackenzie	Mr. J. J. Andrew	30
Miss Carroll	Mr. J. Pidgeon	30
Mrs. Baggardidge	Q.M.S. West, R.E.	30
Mrs. Ewing	Mr. Lapsley	30
Mrs. G. P. Lammert	Mr. G. P. Lammert	29
Mrs. Carroll	Mr. R. A. Collins	29
Mrs. Mossop	Mr. Mossop	29
Mrs. Blair	Ar. Ser. Blair	29
Mrs. Ormsby	Mr. C. A. Ormsby	29
Mrs. Watson	Mr. A. Watson	28
Mrs. Horley	Mr. H. Horley	28
Mrs. Penning	Mr. F. Penning	27

At the conclusion of the shooting Miss Blake presented the prizes to the successful competitors in the Ladies' Nomination and in the Nursery Aggregate, All Comers Aggregate, and Championship Aggregate, the results

of which have already appeared. The following money prizes won on the range were then given out:—

Mr. G. P. Lammert,	...	\$77-91
Mr. Hobday, A.B.,	...	40-06
Ser. Instr. Wake,	...	39-72
Mr. J. Marshall,	...	36-17
Mr. J. Pidgeon,	...	32-94
Mr. D. McLennan,	...	31-85
Ser. Maj. Wallace,	...	26-28
Mr. A. Watson,	...	21-60
Q. M. S. West, R. E.	...	21-66
Mr. J. Cramer, R. N.	...	13-82
Mr. W. Stewart,	...	9-83
Mr. J. J. Andrew,	...	6-75
Ser. Bowery,	...	5-62
Mr. R. Lapsley,	...	5-00
Private Pond, R.W.F.	...	3-66

At the conclusion of the distribution of prizes, Mr. A. MACKENZIE, secretary of the Rifle Association, presented Miss Blake with a beautiful bouquet, and in thanking her for her presence there, remarked that Miss Blake was not a novice in the handling of a rifle, but held the distinction of being the best lady shot in the colony. (Applause.)

Sir JOHN CARRINGTON then delivered a short address, and said—Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen: I am quite sure you would not allow the meeting to break up without returning thanks to Miss Blake. As Mr. Mackenzie has reminded you, Miss Blake is not quite a novice, but knows something about rifle shooting. I think it would be a good plan for the Association to have, say, a competition for ladies—not merely a ladies' nomination, but a real competition for ladies. Coming over on the ferry this afternoon, a lady quite surprised me by saying that she had made 85 at two, five, and six hundred yards. Some men can very easily fall below that standard. (Laughter.)

I am not going to keep you, but I am sure you must appreciate Miss Blake's coming here to give out the prizes, and I also feel certain that those who received prizes will value them the more for the graceful way in which she presented them. I think we ought to praise Mr. Cramer for winning a prize for her. My experience of these things is that the gentleman put up to shoot for the principal lady generally makes a mess of it, because he feels the great responsibility resting on his shoulders. (Laughter.) Mr. Cramer, however, has proved himself a worthy champion of Miss Blake, and we all congratulate him on his success. There is one remark I wish to make with regard to the meeting. As Commandant of the Volunteer Corps, it affords me very great pleasure to note that in the results for the Championship Aggregate no less than seven out of the ten best shots are volunteers. The champion of the year is also a volunteer. I think our military friends will not altogether blame me if I say I am proud of that. (Applause.) I am sure you are gratified to see H. E. the Governor coming down here and showing his interest in the proceedings of the Association. This question of rifle shooting is coming to the front very rapidly and very prominently. In fact, the Prime Minister has thought that the best way to meet a possible invasion of home territory is by founding and organising numerous rifle clubs. I am not prepared to say that that would be the best way to meet an invasion, but at any rate the results of the South African campaign have shown us clearly the great value of accurate rifle-shooting. I hope the Association will flourish, that its membership will increase, and that future meetings will be even more successful than the present one, which has been very good and has seen some high scores registered despite the fact that competitors were bothered by rain and wind. We are greatly indebted to Miss Blake for coming here to day to give out the prizes, and I now ask you to give her three hearty cheers. (Cheers and applause.)

MISS BLAKE—Thank you.

H. E. the GOVERNOR said—Ladies and gentlemen, I think there is one observation by Sir John Carrington that especially deserves consideration—that with regard to ladies' shooting. As the purpose of the Rifle Association is to make as many as possible of the inhabitants of the colony efficient in the use of a rifle and able to take their places in the possible defence of the colony, it might do very well to include the ladies. I may assume that the ladies' charms would attract the foe, who, thus thrown off their

guard, could be easily picked off by the men. (Laughter.)

The proceedings concluded with three cheers for H. E. the Governor, called for by Mr. MACKENZIE.

LAWN TENNIS.

In the lawn tennis match on the 13th inst. between the Ladies' Recreation Club and the Hongkong Cricket Club, the former won by sixteen games, the figures being—L.R.C., 84 games; H.K.C.C., 68 games.

Up to the end of Tuesday's play, the results in the various tournaments were as follows:—Championship—E. F. Mackay beat Clapham (6-2, 6-4, 6-2); A. Class Handicap—A. H. Hollingsworth, 15-2, beat E. J. Grist, owes 1/6 (6-2, 6-3), and Capt. Langhorne, owes 15-1, beat H. Humphreys, scratch (3-6, 6-3, 6-3); B. Class Handicap—J. Hooper, owes 15, beat F. J. Wild, scratch (6-2, 6-2); Doubles Handicap—E. G. Barrett and F. H. Yeats, owe 2/6, beat F. P. Harold and B. Hanson, 3-6 (3-6, 6-3, 6-3), R. G. Gerrard, and J. E. Lee, 15, beat F. H. Gresson and T. Forrest, scratch (6-2, 6-4), C. H. Gale and J. A. Jupp, scratch, beat W. T. Caulfield and A. C. Stevens, scratch (8-6, 3-6, 6-3), H. J. Gedge and Wei On, owe 2/6, beat J. B. Shettle and R. Butcher, scratch (9-7, 6-3).

On the 17th inst. results were as follows:—Championship—D. G. Cowie beat O. Williams (6-0, 6-2, 6-0), F. H. Yeats beat E. G. Barrett (6-1, 6-1, 7-5); Doubles Handicap—A. H. Hollingsworth and N. E. Trimmingham, owe 2/6, beat H. M. Bain and F. D. Bain, 30, (6-4, 6-4), E. J. Grist and T. S. Smith, owe 15-1, beat E. F. Mackay and P. A. Cox, owe 15-2; B. Class Handicap—A. C. J. Stevens, 15-4, beat M. A. Souza, 15-3, (6-4, 6-2), F. X. d'A. Castro, 15-3, beat C. H. Gale, owes 15-3, (6-1, 6-1), J. B. Shettle, owes 15-3, beat H. A. Seth, scratch. (6-1, 6-4), C.M.G. Burnie, scratch, w. o. 6. Williams, owes 15-3, scratched; R. G. Gerrard, 1/6, beat R. Butcher, owes 15-3, (8-6, 6-2).

Thursday's results were as follows:—Professional Pairs, F. Maitland and H. W. Slade beat H. J. Gedge and Wei On (6-1, 6-3), H. Pinckney and F. P. Harold beat A. H. Hollingsworth and N. E. Trimmingham, C. H. Gale and T. E. Lee beat E. J. Libeaud and E. G. Barrett (7-5, 9-7), E. J. Grist and T. Sercombe Smith beat Capt. Langhorne and D. Clapham (6-2, 6-1); Double Handicap—Capt. Langhorne and D. Clapham, owe 40, beat Capt. des Vœux and Major Buttanshaw, 3/6, R. G. Gerrard and J. E. Lee, 15, beat Capt. Waymouth and R. Peiniger, 3/6 (6-1, 2-6, 6-0), H. Pinckney and H. W. Slade, owe 30-3, beat S. A. Seth and L. E. Lammert, 30, (6-3, 3-6, 6-4), A. Class Handicap—H. W. Slade, owes 1/6, beat F. P. Harold, 15, Rev. F. P. Johnson, 15, beat D. G. Cowie, scratch (6-1, 6-1), A. Humphreys, owes 2/6, beat F. H. Yeats, 4/6 (6-1, 6-3), J. A. Jupp, scratch, beat W. T. Caulfield, 4/6, (9-7, 6-0); B. Class Handicap—F. X. d'A. Castro, 15-3, beat A. C. J. Stevens, owes 15-4 (6-3, 6-1), Capt. Tullock, owes 15, beat S. A. Seth, 1/6 (7-5, 7-5), A. B. Rouse, owes 3/6, beat T. Forrest, owes 15-4 (6-0, 6-1) A. Brooke Smith, 3/6, beat H. A. Lammert, scratch (6-4, 6-2), and E. J. Libeaud, 1/6, beat Capt. des Vœux, owes 15-3 (3-6, 6-3, 6-2).

The trial trip of the steam launch *Matulin*, which has been built and engined by the Yat Sing firm to the order of Mr. Luis R. Yancoo of Manila, took place on Sunday last. The launch is 80 feet long, and possesses a powerful engine for a vessel of her dimensions. The speed attained on the trial was 11 knots, steaming at 90 lbs. pressure. She has been built under the personal supervision of the owner's representative here, Mr. Jose Guimenes of Mijares, and will be used for towing purposes at Manila. She is fitted aft with two cabins, one for the captain and the other for the chief engineer, and the engine-room is well protected from the elements. In all she is a smartly constructed craft, and will be taken down to Manila by a crew shortly expected from the Philippines. During the trip Mr. Guimenes was highly congratulated on the success which had attended his labours in the construction of such a neat and trim little craft.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB

QUARTERLY MEETING—MACWEN CUP, BOGEY CUP AND POOL.

The heavy but welcome rain of the past week rendered the course somewhat slow, and putting was distinctly difficult. The winner of the Pool is to be congratulated on his steady card, which contained nothing worse than an occasional 6.

The following were the scores handed in:—

MACWEN CUP.

Mr. T. S. Forrest	82	—	2	84
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	87	—	3	84 tie.
Mr. W. I. Gresson	101	—	16	85
Mr. G. B. Thornhill, R.A.	103	—	18	85
Mr. C. Palmer	103	—	9	94
Mr. R. H. Richardson	113	—	17	96
Mr. C. H. P. Hay	114	—	18	96

17 entries.

BOGEY CUP.

Mr. T. S. Forrest	owes 2 strokes	1 down
J. H. T. McMurtrie	scratch	4 down
Et. R. E. E. Kriekenbeck	sec. 11	5 down
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	2	6 down
E. J. Grist	5	6 down
Lt. G. E. Palmer	11	8 down
Mr. C. H. P. Hay	14	11 down

16 entries.

POOL.

Capt. F. H. Henderson, R.N.	91	15	76
Mr. T. S. Forrest	81	2	83
C. M. G. Burnie	87	3	84
J. H. T. McMurtrie	85	0	85
W. J. Gresson	101	16	85
Mr. G. B. Thornhill, R.A.	103	18	85
W. J. Saunders	103	11	92
Comm. Davison R.N.	106	13	93
Mr. C. Palmer	103	9	94
C. H. P. Hay	114	18	96

17 entries.

THE POLITICAL OBSTACLES TO MISSIONARY SUCCESS IN CHINA.

MR. ALEXANDER MICHIE'S LECTURE.

On Tuesday evening in the St. Andrew's Hall, City Hall, a lecture was delivered under the auspices of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society, the chair being taken by H. E. the Governor. A large number of visitors were present, among them being Lady and Miss Blake. The lecturer was Mr. Alexander Michie, and his subject was "The Political Obstacles to Missionary Success in China."

His Excellency said that they had been invited that afternoon to hear a lecture from Mr. Alexander Michie, who required no introduction to any audience in the Far East, where his literary reputation was so well known, and where his last brilliant work, "An Englishman in China" was now being devoured with avidity by everybody who could beg, borrow, or buy a copy. The subject of the lecture, which was on the political obstacles to missionary work in China, was one of absorbing interest to every student of the history of China for the past three hundred years, and profoundly affected the present position of affairs. It could not be ignored in any profitable examination of the present unhappy position in China. To those who had the good fortune to read Mr. Michie's writings no guarantee was necessary that the lecture would be instructive and interesting, and would be listened to with pleasure by those who were in attendance. His Excellency then introduced Mr. Michie.

The following was the lecture:—

With the exception of a few extremists who glory in the contemplation of martyrdom, who regard the effusion of blood as no drawback whatever to the propagation of their faith, men of all classes must deplore the violence which attends missionary operations in China. Periodical outrages, destruction of life and property, savage passions incessantly inflamed spreading like a bush-fire among the Chinese people, holocausts of adherents to foreign sects: such things are all too frequent and too wide spread to be attributed to local or accidental circumstances. The root causes of these ever-recurring phenomena must be constant, and they must be general. And so long as the root causes remain it is obvious that similar effects must be expected to show themselves. How far the ramifications of these untoward effects extend is probably, but faintly realisable

by persons at a distance from the scene. The world resounds with the cries of persecuted missionaries, but grievous as are their woes, the sufferings of foreigners can bear little comparison with the miseries entailed on the natives who have to bear the brunt of the onslaught. The foreigners concerned are not only few in number, but they have means of escape, and it is in their own choice whether they remain at or return to the theatre of danger. But their native disciples having no such option are tied to the soil, and are as helpless as sheep before their shearers. Of their griefs the outer world hears virtually nothing.

The common sense of mankind must recognise this state of things as an evil. Those who are the most sincerely devoted to Christian teaching must feel poignant regret that its introduction to the richest field in the whole world should be associated with outbreaks of cruelty, and the letting loose of the fiendish passions of men. If it be presumed that the most ardent proselytiser—always with the special exceptions referred to at the outset—would prefer that his religion should make a peaceable, and not a stormy entrance into the empire of China, it follows that the lay world stands on common ground with missionaries in viewing with consternation the bloodshed which stains their path.

Unfortunately, however, the acknowledged evil is one which, like bubonic plague, is practically without a remedy, since no two sects, scarcely any two men, could ever be got to agree upon measures either of prevention or cure. But though, under these circumstances, discussion on the subject may appear to be idle, yet people can no more refrain from discussing it than they can avert their thoughts from other irreparable calamities. Go where one will, the missionary question is in every mouth: it is a standing topic for the forum as well as for the study. There may be regions of the earth where religious propagandism is properly left to the care of its professional sponsors, but so far as the missions in China are concerned, their operations fill too large a place in the world's affairs for the consideration of them to be relegated to tonsured monks or to *ex-officio* theologians, no matter of what sect. For the truculent feelings which these missions have aroused in China raise questions of international ethics which threaten to upset the political equilibrium of the globe, to embitter inter-racial relations, and even to threaten the world's peace. Were it merely the progress of Christianity as a religion which was being obstructed by the opening of the flood-gates of savagery, its self-constituted guardians might, like other corporations, resent the intrusion of outside opinion. But the gravity of the matters at issue is such as to override mere professional scruples, since it is not religion alone—important as that is—which is affected by the course of events, but the wellbeing both of the people of China and of the Western States.

And as it is the civil power of Christendom, with the military force controlled by it, which is responsible for the introduction and maintenance of missionaries in China, every subject and citizen of these States shares a responsibility of which he can be no means divest himself. It seems, therefore, the bounden duty of the public at large to exercise their minds on this Mission question, to observe where it trenches on the rights and liberties of the Chinese people and the sovereignty of their Government, to examine dispassionately the various claims set up by the propaganda, and to come to some conclusion as to the extent to which the military forces of Christendom may be legitimately used to support a course of procedure which is calculated, if not intended, to overturn the existing polity of China.

We are justified in assuming from the history of missions in past centuries, as well as from all contemporary experience, that the Christian religion, as such, has never provoked the Chinese Government or people to acts of violence: and that their real objection to the propaganda has been, and is, primarily political, and only incidentally religious. Missionaries of all denominations and in all ages have testified in the amplest manner to this fact. A French missionary in the 14th century wrote from Central China:—"In this empire there are men of all

nations under the sun and monks of all sects; and as every one is permitted to live in whatever belief he pleases, the opinion, or rather the error, being upheld that each one may effect his salvation in his own religion, we are enabled to preach in perfect liberty and security." Five hundred years have worked no change in the Chinese attitude. Mr. Ross, the well-known Scotch missionary of Manchuria, says:—"As far as religion is concerned, the Chinese are not only reasonable, but extremely tolerant, till the professed religion assume, or is believed to assume, a political aspect."

But, that being the case, the so-called persecutions and martyrdoms of Christians lose all their religious significance: the very terms by which they are commonly described are misleading. For assuredly no heavenly vision has ever said to a Chinese, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." We may without injustice to either side assume the practical and secular standpoint of the Chinese, for though it be true that we of the lay community might take exception to much that is presented to the Chinese in the name of Christianity as having little relation or resemblance to the gospel of Christ, yet our consideration of the missionary question will be conveniently simplified by leaving the subject-matter of its religious teaching on one side. We can do this on the double ground that what is beyond our ken is also outside of our responsibility, and that it is not the doctrines of the missionaries, whether pure or corrupt, which are the inciting causes of hostility.

But if not their doctrines, then it is something else that brings down Chinese vengeance upon the missions; and that something is not far to seek. It is writ large over the whole history of mission work in China, so that he that runs may read it. What the Chinese object to in foreign missions, and will resist to the death, is their political pretensions, applying the adjective in its widest sense, so as to include the sphere of social relations. For the most important politics in China are family and village politics; and it may safely be said that if missionaries could live on good terms with the local communes, and keep clear of tribal feuds, the higher Chinese authorities would be only too glad to leave them unmolested.

On the other hand, an attitude of brusque hostility towards rural observances, of open derision of time-honoured superstitions, and such like, necessarily generate resentment, and resentment is apt to gather strength, and under stimulating conditions, may easily develop into ferocity, especially where an outsider is the object of it.

The claims of the Roman Catholic propaganda are so notorious that it would be superfluous to recapitulate them before an audience like this. To put the matter concisely, they would convert the population of China into French citizens, thus constituting an *imperium in imperio*, subversive of the authority of the native Government. All Protestants recognise, most of them deplore, and many of them denounce this state of things, while the Chinese are driven by it to despair, or to desperate reprisals.

It is argued however, on behalf of Protestant Missions, that they are innocent of the charges which lie so heavy against their Catholic rivals; that as they do not assume official rank, nor directly interfere in the administration of justice, their proceedings are void of offence. This plea, which has been put forth by English secular journals of the highest repute, does not cover the ground, and even within its narrow limits it is unsubstantial. Granted that Protestant missionaries do not publicly assume official functions, yet their active interference in native courts and in native quarrels is beyond question; it has for years been one of the recurrent subjects in their periodical literature. I have often seen it debated in these journals to what extent it is politic or consistent with the missionary profession to support their adherents in litigation or in village feuds, the actual existence of the practice being always taken for granted. Indeed it is not easy for the missionaries altogether to avoid such interference. Their disciples are in trouble, and seek counsel. Is their pastor to refuse to listen or advise? And

if he advises, is he not taking part in the quarrel? Is the man who furnishes the ammunition and loads the gun a less active combatant than him who fires it? A well-known missionary in North China, Mr. Candlin, thus describes and comments on this practice in a letter published some years ago in a daily newspaper:—"A missionary," he says, "receives a report from one of his Church members that his heathen neighbour is persecuting him. He applies to the mandarin, who refuses to see him. Then he goes to his Consul. His Consul reluctantly refers it to the higher Chinese authorities. They send down a *wen shu* ordering the local mandarin to stop persecution. The native convert has never appealed on his own account to the mandarin. On examination it may or may not turn out a bogus concern altogether. Ten to one it is an insignificant affair. . . . But the remoter consequences are not insignificant. The Christian has been taught to lean upon a protection he is not entitled to; the heathen feels that he is being tyrannised over by the hated foreigner, who, according to his notions, has no business to be in the country; the mandarin has been snubbed for no fault of his own; the higher officials feel that in admitting the missionary they pulled down a house over their heads; and the consul wishes the missionary and his peddling concerns far enough."

Testimony of this character is worth more than its face value, if we consider the professional bias which had to be overcome before a working missionary could bring himself to make such a public declaration, and the risk of obloquy incurred by any individual in any profession who casts reflection on his cloth. It is well also to bear constantly in mind in this connection, that all we know about mission affairs is from the missionaries themselves—a circumstance which places us at an immense disadvantage in forming our opinion. The other side is never heard. Such hints as we do get from native sources deserve the more attention from their rarity; and in cases where they happen to coincide with the expressed views of missionaries, the agreement possesses a special significance. A Chinese literate, in an anti-Christian tract, gives his version of the missionary procedure so nearly identical in terms with that of the candid writer just quoted that we can hardly evade the conclusion that they are both speaking the truth. "The missionaries," he says, "without sufficient knowledge of the real facts of the case, and deceived by the *ex parte* statements of their converts, are in the habit of coming forward as their protectors and openly assisting them. It often happens that they hide away the defendant in a suit in order that he may not appear in court, and in certain instances when the guilt of an offender has been conclusively proved and his punishment decided on, they in the most public manner have connived at his getting away to a foreign country, with the result that he is not to be had, and the case remains in abeyance."

No doubt the missionaries do their best to discriminate between the true and the false in all such cases, but "for ways that are dark and for tricks that are vain the Christian Chinese is peculiar," and, thanks to his foreign instruction, is several degrees wiser than his heathen brother.

Nor can it be said that such action of the Protestant missionaries is a thing of the past; it never was in fuller activity than it is at the present moment. Quite recently there was a communal feud in the neighbouring province of Kwangtung in which the adherents of an English Mission were so far victorious as to inflict damage and loss on the heathen party opposed to them. Seeing they were getting the worst of the fight, the latter took counsel of their elders, and went over in a body to an American Mission in the same district, claiming its protection. The ceremony of baptism was presumably deferred for closer examination into the merits of the sudden and wholesale conversion, but the protection was not delayed on that account, and demands for restitution were promptly preferred against the raiders. The Chinese quarrel thereupon resolved itself into a negotiation between the two foreign missions as to the number of buffaloes and pigs that had been stolen during the feud. To the question why they recognised the American missionaries—who are keen on the dollar—as representatives of the Chinese claimants, it

was replied by the spokesman of the English Mission that they were only too thankful that the discomfited heathen did not go over to a French Mission, as in that case more arbitrary proceedings might have been brought to bear on the dispute.

The confessions of missionaries leave no manner of doubt that these interferences are habitual among them, that their converts are in the habit of palming off on them involved and one-sided stories, whereby the unwary missionary is led to compromise himself in disreputable transactions. The practice is so firmly established, and is so well understood by the Chinese; that, in the north, south, and centre of China, it is no uncommon thing for whole villages to become Christians as a strategic move in some old-standing feud. It comes as natural to them as casting the King at a particular stage in the game does to a chess-player. The value of the missionary factor in village warfare may be overestimated by the Chinese, but their faith in it seems to be amply attested by their acts. Whole villages do not go over to the Christians without a cause. They do not propose to serve God for nought.

Where transactions of this character constitute part of the routine of missionary work, where purely native affairs are settled by the negotiation or adjudication of foreign officials, it is obviously trifling with words to maintain that Protestant missionaries refrain from interference in the secular affairs of the Chinese.

The Canton Missionary Conference state the case with perfect frankness. In a letter published in the newspapers a few days ago, they claim, in explicit terms, the right of interfering in Chinese judicial procedure where native Christians are the litigants. They contend, of course, that this is done in the interests of justice, but for any foreigner to assume on his own sole authority to be the arbiter of what is just and unjust in a Chinese quarrel, and "insist"—for that is the word—on the Chinese Magistrates dealing with their own people in a particular way, is to disintegrate the sovereign authority of the empire, and to reduce its administration to chaos. The Canton missionaries base their pretensions on the wording of the American treaty, which provides that "those who quietly profess and teach this doctrine shall not be persecuted on account of their faith, and that any Chinese convert who peaceably teaches and practises the principles of Christianity shall in no case be interfered with." By a liberal interpretation of these words, the Canton missionaries appear to have persuaded themselves that they hold a commission to lay down the law to Chinese Magistrates, as well as to their own Consular authorities, in purely Chinese matters which have no relation whatever to "the faith" or to "the principles of Christianity." We may be pardoned the observation that such a faculty of self-persuasion, though valuable in certain spheres of human activity, is rather to be distrusted when thrown into contact with such delicate and complex problems as arise out of the relation of China to the rest of the world.

But it may well seem supererogatory to labour such points of detail in mission practice seeing the whole drift of the propaganda is avowedly to effect a revolution in China. In the words of Dr. Faber, a learned Protestant missionary of Shanghai, recently deceased:—"The Chinese fully realise that the propagation of this religion concerns nothing short of the very existence of the Chinese peculiar theory of life in its entirety"—that is to say individual, social and political.

We know also that the political aspirations of missions whenever circumstances favour them take higher flights than the management of tribal feuds. The Jesuits in the 18th century plotted to depose one Emperor and instal another, and thereby brought about the so-called persecution, and the expulsion of all missionaries. The Protestant missionaries in the 19th, espoused in a body the cause of the Taiping Rebellion. They hailed the movement as the "Christian insurrection," and did their best to encourage it and to ingratiate themselves with its chief, who, however, refused to have anything to say to them, and expelled them with violence.

To this day the rebellion is claimed as a triumph of missionary teaching. Mr. Arnold

Foster, of Wuchang, writes in a recent letter to the *Spectator*:—"No one who knows anything of the Taiping Rebellion doubts that, if it had succeeded a pronouncedly Christian government, of a sort, would have held away over all China. No doubt its Christianity would for a time at least, have been something of a travesty of New Testament Christianity, but the rulers would not therefore have either hated or persecuted Christians of the ordinary Western type." The same writer also claims the reform movement of 1898, which heralded the uprising of last year, as the work of Christian missionaries, meaning of course Protestants. So far, therefore, from contending that the Protestant propaganda is non-political, it were nearer the truth to affirm that missionary work is political through and through. The missionaries may of course claim, like everyone else, the right to propagate political as well as religious doctrines, but they cannot blow hot and cold in the same breath, nor escape the natural consequences of their acts. If they aim at subverting the existing polity of the empire under cover of the protection accorded to them in their religious character, they must expect the fate of those who attempt to sit on two stools. They will degrade their religion without accomplishing the political purpose to which they have prostituted their Christian principles.

A further observation on the letter just quoted may not be out of place here. Mr. Arnold Foster makes the sweeping assertion that "No one knows anything of the Taiping Rebellion doubts that if it had succeeded a pronouncedly Christian government, of a sort, would have held away over all China." Now, I do not pretend to know much about the Taiping Rebellion, but if personal contact with it, and subsequent reflection can teach one anything, I may claim to know at least something of that movement, and I for one, entirely dissent from Mr. Foster's confident predicate. I consider Taipingism as anti-Christian as the worship of Baal, and would as soon believe that a pronouncedly Christian Government would have come out of that movement as that an eagle could be hatched from the egg of a turtle.

(To be continued.)

LIQUID FUEL.

ITS UTILITY AS A PROPELLING POWER.

The lecture room of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong was well filled on the 13th inst., when Mr. John Lambert, the Superintending Engineer of the Cosmopolitan Dock, read a most exhaustive, and at same time exceedingly interesting, paper on "Liquid Fuel."

Mr. R. Cooke presided, and among those present we noticed, Messrs. Kinghorn Jack, Sinclair, Murphy, Mumford, Kirkwood, Brownhill, J. Black, W. E. Dauby, G. C. Anderson, Innes, Soppet, Stirling, and Mr. Smith, Chief Engineer, U.S.S. *Concord*.

The Chairman in a few well-chosen remarks introduced Mr. Lambert who illustrated his paper by a number of pencil drawings and diagrams. At the outset he said he wished to deal more with the mechanical uses than with the chemical composition of the fuel and its gases, and in so doing had to rely not only on what practical experience he had had in that branch of engineering, but also on information collected, by study, and information gathered from engineers with whom he had come into contact, who had been able to give any experiences on the subject: nor did he wish to extol the advantages of the use of liquid fuel, without considering the disadvantages or the difficulties encountered thereby. He, however, ventured to hope that the small amount of information collected might not be without some interest to the members of that institution, and might at all events form the basis of a profitable and interesting discussion.

It was only within the last few years that liquid fuel had come within the province of British engineers, owing to the fact that hitherto it had only been practically obtainable in the vicinity of the Caspian Sea at such a price that rendered it commercially possible. Within the last few years, however, a considerable change had taken place. New oil fields had been discovered, and the number of places on the eastern route at which liquid fuel could be obtained had increased so enormously that

engineers and shipbuilders were turning their attention to the possibilities of that kind of fuel becoming profitable, and for shipowners to consider whether it was not an economy to use it if not in preference to, at least in conjunction with coal on vessels trading eastward.

Liquid fuel was by no means a new suggestion. It was quite a generation ago since it was known it was possible to use liquid fuel instead of coal for the propulsion of ships, but there had hitherto been two drawbacks. First there had been no regular supply of fuel, then the want of suitable appliances for injecting the oil into the furnaces was so serious as to make it impossible to use it on board ships. As regards the first objection, it was fast disappearing, now that the new oil fields had proved so extensive, and that large storage tanks of four and five thousand tons capacity had been erected at all stopping stations from Port Said to Japan.

The second objection, however, was not disappearing so quickly, although great improvement was being made in the apparatus for injecting the oil into the furnaces, still there was room for a greater improvement in this respect as the best burners of to-day were only slight modifications of a burner used in 1874. That seemed to have been of the simplest pattern of the sprayer class of burners and the foundation of all recent ones.

Before going into the details of the different kinds of injectors Mr. Lambert pointed out the advantages of the use of liquid fuel could the ideal of perfection be obtained, but which he considered had not yet been reached, still, they were on the way to that result with the experiments and practical results that some of our interested engineers and shipbuilders were from time to time obtaining. Allowing that a complete combustion was obtained and which was quite possible, that the flame was so distributed that no injurious effects were transmitted to the plates of the boiler, and that the fuel was carried in well-constructed tanks so that any leakage was out of the question, then he thought the following would be some of the advantages as used on steamships.

(1). No lost heat, no smoke or soot.

(2). No ashes or clinkers, and consequently no fires to clean, with the accompanying loss of heat and drop in the steam pressure—the steam pressure being maintained at one point throughout the voyage.

(3). The boiler tubes are always free from soot, and clean, and therefore always in the best condition for transmitting the heat from gases passing through them to the water of the boiler.

(4). The admission of air to the furnaces being under complete control, and the furnaces fuel being burnt in fine particles in close contact with the oxygen of the air, only a very small excess of air above that actually necessary for the complete combustion of the fuel is required. With coal, in order to ensure as possible, a very much larger excess of air is required.

Another advantage derived from the use of liquid fuel on steamers was that trimming was altogether dispensed with, and that in heavy weather a steady head of steam could be maintained and in hot and close weather a steady head of steam could also be maintained, as the oil did not require a draught, as is the case with coal. With regard to the very material gain in the deadweight carrying capacity, and which must be a very great advantage of liquid fuel, an example was given in the case of a steamer with a consumption of say 20 tons of coal per day. A run from Colombo to Aden would require a stock of at least 250 tons of coal on board, but as many merchant steamers do not call at all coaling ports, a common practice was to coal at Suez Canal direct for Singapore, or say 23 days' steaming. A steamer therefore had to take a minimum of 500 tons of coal. It was stated that with liquid fuel the same steamer would have an ample supply with 300 tons, and she would therefore be able to carry at least 200 tons more cargo than under existing circumstances. In steamers of larger consumption the saving of course would be more material.

It was difficult to arrive at the exact saving in consumption by the use of liquid fuel, if any, and that was really what they had to consider as engineers from a scientific standpoint, more than the price of fuel. If properly used, there should be a saving in quantity of consumption,

irrespective of price, and he (Mr. Lambert) knew personally that extremely large quantities could be wasted by inefficient burners and unskilful manipulation of the regulating devices. That should be borne in mind before accepting ostensibly accurate figures. "Looking at the matter from a purely scientific point of view," Mr. Lambert continued, "certain trials which have been made seem to point to a material saving in the consumption, and that if any thing like that can be saved it must be a greater saving when applied to ships in the same advantageous manner, from the fact that the amount of fuel saved means additional freight. With liquid fuel there would be no fire tools to repair, or firebars or floor-plates to renew, and the absence of smoke or dust enables the ship to be kept cleaner. In mentioning the absence of smoke I have no doubt but that many will have noticed from some of the oil burning steamers visiting our port that at times there is quite the reverse of absence of smoke, but that is often caused in raising steam before the bridges and brickwork in the furnace have become heated. To insure a perfect combustion it is necessary to have the brickwork incandescent. When the fires are burning as they should and perfect combustion is taking place there should be an absence of smoke and the brickwork should assume a white heat. If there is smoke there cannot be a complete combustion, which can readily be seen from an ordinary petroleum lamp."

Mr. Lambert then went on to consider the mode of carrying or stowing the fuel on board ships, and the dangers in connection therewith. He said:—"It is only but a few years since the carrying of petroleum in bulk was resorted to, and at that time it was considered most impracticable, and highly dangerous, and high wages and other considerations offered to engineers to sail in these ships, and I remember myself at the time very exaggerated yarns about the first ships carrying bulk oil through the Canal, how anxiously all on board had to watch the temperature in the tanks whilst in the Red Sea, and the continual dread of the oil reaching such a temperature that they might be blown up at any moment. Now there is almost a continual stream of oil steamers coming through the Red Sea and the day of high wages and other inducements to men to sail in them has vanished. With ordinary care oil steamers are as safe as other ships and all accidents are generally caused by carelessness. With the carrying of liquid fuel there is much less danger. There is a difference of course in the kinds of oil used. Besides tar and other refuse from gasworks, there are three kinds of liquid fuel. Firstly, refined petroleum, which is scarcely used at all, and that was the kind with which there was, perhaps, the most danger, but the price of refined petroleum does not allow of its use. Then we have the crude petroleum, just as it comes out of the earth, which would be dangerous because it contains all the naphthas, benzenes and so on, very light and highly inflammable: but the custom in hot countries where the oil is usually found is to expose the crude oil in open tanks and let the sun evaporate the lighter carbons so that the resultants can be used with safety. Some wells or springs in Borneo, I believe, were found to contain so little petroleum that it did not pay to refine it, and that has been used as liquid fuel and is of such a high flash point as not to be at all dangerous. Crude petroleum varies considerably. They might get it as low as 30 or 40 degrees, or it might go up to 400 or 500 degrees. As regards the third kind (Astatki) exclusively used on the Caspian Sea, it is of a heavy treacherous description and not at all dangerous."

Regarding the tanks themselves Mr. Lambert thought there should be no difficulty in well constructed ships having tight tanks, and not even a leaky rivet, as ships constructed to carry oil in bulk have their tanks tested to more pressure than boilers were subjected to 50 years ago. Fires had taken place, but in all cases they were caused by faulty construction and neglect.

Regarding the various methods which had been adopted for burning liquid fuel, Mr. Lambert said they could be divided into the following three classes:—

(1). Furnaces into which the oil is run or dropped and burnt without gasifying or spraying.

(2). Furnaces in which the oil is first wholly or partly gasified.

(3). Furnaces into which the oil is sprayed.

The first was the oldest form of burning oil, and was illustrated by the diagrams which had been prepared. The latest example of oil burning coming under the head of this class was the arrangement on board the Russian steamship *Mosel*.

"Through the courtesy of the owners of The Shell Transport and Trading Company, Ltd.," Mr. Lambert went on to say "I am enabled to give a description of it as she is now running, but I am sorry not to be able to illustrate it on the board. In the *Mosel* the fuel is stored in the ballast tanks, and in the cross bunkers forward of the stokehold. There is no service tank, properly speaking, the oil being drawn from the ballast tanks or cross bunker by means of a small Worthington pump driven (in the first instance) by steam from the donkey boiler. The donkey boiler is fired with coal. After leaving the tanks the oil passes through a filter: two filters are provided, but only one is in use at a time, the other being in reserve for use in the event of the first becoming blocked. These filters are small upright cylinders about 3 feet 6 inches by 6 inches, and take up hardly any space.

"The oil can be turned into each filter by means of branch pipes and valves, so that a block in one filter does not entail the smallest delay or stoppage. After leaving the filter the oil passes through a heater, warmed by the live steam going through to the pump, where it is raised to about 185 degrees F. in temperature. From the heater it passes through the pump, and thence to the burners.

The *Mosel* has two single ended boilers, three furnaces to each, and three burners to each furnace. The burners are arranged in a triangle in the centre of each furnace door, and about 6in. apart. The burners are Korting's patent, are about 6in. long, and the orifice of the nozzle is so small that the end of a good sized pin would hardly enter. The burners are all set parallel to each other and to the central line of the furnace. There is a cock on the pipes supplying the oil to the furnaces, and besides, each burner has its independent cock. Thus the burners of any furnace can be worked as a group of three, and opened or extinguished simultaneously, or they can be worked as single burners, and one, two, or three be lighted or extinguished as required. This is of great advantage in getting up steam, as the heat can be applied gently at first, and increased as the furnace gets warmed up. It is obvious that three small burners, each of which can itself be regulated within certain limits, admit of a far more delicate adjustment of the heat than one large burner, as is used in other systems. The arrangement also is of great advantage when little steam is wanted, as when the steamer may have to proceed slowly, in a river, or in thick weather, one or two burners in each furnace can be turned off, as required, thus saving fuel and steam. Besides regulation by the cocks, the amount of oil coming through the burners can be increased or reduced at will by pumping faster or slower.

On the *Mosel* they usually pump at from 25 to 30lbs pressure. Each burner passes through a hole in the furnace door but very slightly larger than itself, and the burners are lighted by introducing a flame through this hole as soon as they are turned on. The spray of heated oil catches at once.

Behind the furnace door there is a damper which opens by means of a screw handle on each side of the furnace door. The damper opens to the extent of about 6 inches, and is so constructed that it fits tight when closed. A slide closes the hole through which the oil spray passes, so that when the burners are put out and the boilers allowed to cool, the ingress of cold air is completely prevented, and the furnaces cool slowly, thus minimizing the risk of damage by rapid contraction. By an arrangement of cylinders placed in the furnaces the air entering the furnace is heated to about the same temperature as the oil. This damper and cylinder arrangement I believe to be the patent of the superintending engineer of that steamship company. By means of the damper the amount of air entering the furnace can be regulated. Every means is taken to prevent the admission of cold air either while the burners are working or after they are extin-

guished. The furnace door is flanged, and fits air-tight, being further secured by means of a layer of fire-clay placed round the edge of the door space before closing to light up.

The bricking arrangement differs in this system to the arrangement of same in other systems. There are two bridges, the first is practically a wall closing the whole diameter of the furnace, with a circular hole exactly in the middle some 15 in. behind this hole is another bridge or pillar, the exact construction of which I am unable to give, as it could only be seen from the front of the furnace through the hole in the first bridge.

The absence of a service tank containing more or less heated oil, fitted with gauge glasses, etc., distinctly minimises the risk of fire in the stokehold.

One drawback of the system appears to be the consumption, which is decidedly high. The *Mossel* is 1,500 horse power, but is usually run at 1,200 horse power.

To develop this power she burns according to the engineer 18 tons per day, but this does not quite agree with his further statement that the consumption is .78 of a kilogramme per i. h. p. per day.

This I make equivalent to 21.1 tons per day. The engineer also stated that her consumption of the best Australian coal was .85 of a kilogramme per i. h. p. per hour. Which is—= 23 tons, a saving of 2 tons according to my figures, but a saving of 5 tons from the engineer's first statement.

She carries four engineers, and 14 engine-room hands, which includes men for working the deck winches.

Mr. Lambert concluded his paper by the following statements in connection with plate furnaces, and liquid fuel in use in the Colony:—

In course of research I have come across some interesting statements in connection with plate furnaces which perhaps may be of interest. At Woolwich under ordinary circumstances, the armour plate bending furnace was lighted some four or five hours before the plate was put in, the time occupied in heating the plate for bending depended upon its thickness, one hour per inch being allowed. Taking a six-inch plate they got from ten to eleven hours from the time of starting till the plate was ready for bending. Let us now see what liquid fuel will do. The cold furnace was lighted, and after one hour it was found to be sufficiently heated, and a six-inch armour plate seven feet six inches by three feet, was put in the furnace, and after one hour or one hour and a half it was ready for bending, thus in two hours and a half they had the work of ten or eleven hours completely and satisfactorily performed. Nor did the advantages of this system stop there. The plate was remarkably free from scale, which could only be accounted for by the absence of the deteriorating influence of the products of combustion in the ordinary furnace. This important feature was said to save 10s. per ton on the metal, which amount it would lose in deterioration under the ordinary mode of treatment. This method of supplying heat also offered another advantage: it could be applied to the whole or any portion of the plate. Thus if a plate required to be bent at one end only, then the heat was directed to that part. Further the rate at which the metal was heated could be regulated to a nicety by increasing or diminishing the number of jets in use. I am not aware whether steam or compressed air was used, but I would suppose that if liquid fuel was used in a blacksmith's furnace for welding, that steam could not be used.

I have been using liquid fuel as it comes here from Borneo, in the Well's lamps at the dock, which gives good results, and is a saving as compared with refined petroleum as formerly used. When the fuel oil comes too thick for use in these lamps and which it does sometimes, I have mixed it with a quantity of refined oil. I believe the same kind of lamps are in use at the Naval Yard extension here, and that the fuel oil is also used there with success.

Within the last few days, I have had a liquid fuel rivet forge sent to me for trial and report thereon, and I found it to work very well. A little trouble was experienced at first lighting up, but after the flame was going a little time

and the brickwork was heated up, it was all that could be desired. Petroleum oil was the fuel used, and compressed air the spraying medium. A number of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch rivets were put into the forge, and were heated up very quickly. Sixteen $\frac{1}{2}$ inch rivets were next put in and timed, and in five minutes the whole sixteen were hot enough for use. They were remarkably free from scale, and seemed to reach one temperature and remain at that. There seemed to be no possibility of getting the rivet too hot and pieces of molten metal dropping off, as is often the case with rivets which are heated in a coal fire, when the rivets have been allowed to remain too long and get neglected. A much larger number of rivets can be heated in this forge than with the ordinary rivet forge. The brickwork was quite incandescent, no smoke, and the flame was very clear and bright, quite a white heat.

In conclusion I must express my indebtedness for a good deal of matter contained in this paper to Messrs. Samuel Samuels, Holden, Wallis, Orde, Rusden and Eccles and others, and I trust that my efforts have been the means of explaining the methods used in burning liquid fuels and the apparatus pertaining thereto.

The Chairman said they had all listened with very great interest to Mr. Lambert's paper. There were several good remarks in it, not only in reference to liquid fuel for boilers, but in burning it for other purposes, and he was sure Mr. Lambert had struck a very good note in bringing it before them that evening. He had not the least doubt but that many of the thinking engineers would take the paper to heart, and endeavour to make good use of it. If there were any members present who would like to say anything on the subject they would be glad to hear it.

After a pause, Mr. Lambert said he believed there were one or two engineers in the room who, though they were not then using liquid fuel, have been doing so, and their opinions would be valuable.

The Chairman remarked that the discussion was not confined to members of the Institution. If there were any visitors present, who had anything to say on the subject they were at liberty to express their views.

Mr. Soppet said he had been running with liquid fuel for the past 18 months, and found that it was very beneficial compared with coal with regard to cleanliness and saving of labour. Of course there was the question of water, and he thought with vessels constructed for it he did not see why it should not be universally adopted. With ordinary care and attention liquid fuel should supersede coal. He could not find any fault at all with what had been stated that evening. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

Mr. Stirling, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Kirkwood continued the discussion, their remarks being principally as to the construction of the bridges referred to in the paper.

Mr. Kinghorn said it was a subject about which a great deal could be said, but as far as the discussion had gone that evening nothing had been said about the economy of it. He had been looking at the technical papers which had lately arrived from home, and had found that the subject was drawing a great deal of attention, and as far as steamers were concerned the question was one of economy. It seemed to be settled among the profession that it was not safe to use the oil with anything else but steam in some form or other; that was to say, the oil must be vaporised before it was used or allowed to escape. They had tried compressing it in various forms, and tried to mix it with water, but with very little success, and up to the present the great difficulty had been the quantity of water required to use it on board steamships. He thought he was correct in stating that two steamers which were out here on the coast had given it up for that sole reason, that it cost them more to keep up the fresh water supply than the difference between the cost of oil and the cost of coal. (Hear, hear.) Then there was another point which concerned the members of the Institute in this part of the world. It would not do to leave a matter of this kind in the hands of the native firemen, or at least it would not do to trust them entirely, and it would hardly be fair to ask the engineer to keep his watch in the stoke-

hole. There were one or two points which struck him in the discussion as being worthy of notice, and he would like to ask some of his American friends who were present to tell them of the experience of Admiral Melville of the United States Navy as to the trials which had been going on recently. They must be very interesting. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Smith, the chief engineer of the U.S.S. *Concord*, said he had taken a great deal of interest in the matter. He was sorry to say he had not studied up the subject much. He however gave his idea of what the experiments amounted to, and said that the liquid fuel was frequently used in merchantmen and men-of-war. The results of the Navy Department's labour had not been made known, therefore he was unable to throw any additional light upon them. They had not got so far as to authorise the oil in use on torpedo boats, but if the funaces on those boats became dirty they simply put a little oil on the top of the fire, which burned sufficiently to take the boat out of danger.

Capt. Anderson said there was no doubt great credit was due to Mr. Lambert for the able paper he had read, and he trusted it would be the means of eliciting more attention to the subject in the future. He had been looking into the question of liquid fuel for the purpose of finding out the reason of the non-adoption of liquid fuel by British shipowners in face of the very great use made of it by Russians in the Caspian Sea. So far as he had been able to find out it seemed to him the question of supply had not been served. The question was whether they could get supply for their vessels. Another reason was whether they could keep up the price. As far as he could ascertain the cost per ton of liquid fuel was twice the cost of coal. Messrs. Armstrong and Whitworth had made experiments with liquid fuel with beneficial results. The speaker then gave some statistics to show the benefits to be desired from the use of oil, and referred to Kitson's light, which he said would affect the lighting by and by. (Hear, Hear.)

Mr. Kirkwood went back to 1871 to show what was done with the second launch which was upon the waters of the Harbour in the matter of coal tar. As soon as they found use for it up went the price.

The Chairman in conclusion said that after what they had heard he must say that Mr. Kinghorn had struck the right note when he spoke of economy in burning the liquid fuel. In these days when the first thing to be thought of was economy in running a steamer, it was necessary to consider what fuel or class of boiler it was best to use. He suggested the discussion be postponed for a fortnight.

This was agreed to and a vote of thanks to Mr. Lambert and to the Chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

MURDER OF MR. STONEHOUSE.

On Sunday last, says the *P. & T. Times* of the 30th March, it became known here that on the previous day one more name had been added to the long list of foreign victims to Chinese ignorance and prejudice. Rev. Joseph Stonehouse, of the London Mission, Peking, was visiting the country stations of his mission near Lo-fa, and reached the village of Wang-ho-lou-tsun in the Yungching district. On Saturday morning, 23rd March, he was on his way to Tung-an and had to take the ferry at Wang-ho-lou T'sun. On reaching the boat he found it already occupied by several Chinese armed with rifles. He is believed to have remonstrated with them for their folly in going about armed in broad daylight, as should they encounter foreign troops trouble would ensue. They appear to have been alarmed at what he said, and putting down their arms stepped ashore and went away. They soon returned, however, with several of their friends, also armed, who deliberately came on board and fired at Mr. Stonehouse. They fired five shots into the helpless man as he crouched under his Chinese cart, which was on the ferry, and medical evidence shows that the shots were fired at very close quarters. Mr. Stonehouse was removed to the village and placed on a kang and was attended by several native Christians up to the last, and he appears to have lingered for fully six hours

before death ended his sufferings. The evidence obtained as yet does not make it clear who removed the body from the boat or why the ruffians made no attempt to prevent the removal, but they appear to have made off after the deed was done, and it is stated crossed the river to a market town on the other side. Neither is it yet quite clear who carried the information to the military at Lo-fa, but it is presumed it was the Chinese preacher who was with Mr. Stonehouse when he was attacked. A body of cavalry left Lo-fa and also Yangtsun on Saturday evening, and after some trouble the interpreter attached to the force succeeded in tracing the body, which was conveyed to Tungan where the London Mission has a station, and where the remains were carefully prepared for burial by the native Christians and placed in a coffin provided by the Magistrate. The body was subsequently conveyed by rail to Peking, where it was interred in the foreign cemetery on Wednesday.

The British troops subsequently destroyed the villages on either side of the ferry, as the murderers appear to have belonged to the neighbourhood, and some prominent Boxers have recently been captured in the same districts, which may in some measure account for the murder, which may have been an act of retaliation. The P. & T. Times regrets to see missionaries returning to their posts even for the purpose of investigating the condition of the Chinese and distributing relief, because so many low-class foreigners are now going into the interior for illegal purposes, who stir up bad feeling amongst the Chinese, and any defenceless missionary following in their wake is liable to suffer in consequence.

A Chinese version of Mr. Stonehouse's murder is given in the *Universal Gazette*. It says that as Mr. Stonehouse was crossing the ferry he observed on board some guns. Fearing that he would be involved, he exhorted the ferryman to have them removed and mounted his horse and rode off. Just as the ferryman was in the act of removing the rifles, a band of mounted robbers came suddenly and seeing the rifles flew into a rage, asking in what direction the missionary had gone. The ferryman told them, whereupon they chased after him, and shot him dead.

HONGKONG.

H.M.S. *Goliath* left on the 15th inst. for Shanghai, and the *Lizard* for Canton, whence she returned on the 18th.

The B Wing of the Gaol, which has now been handed over by the Public Works Department to the Gaol authorities, has 78 cells.

A musketry camp will be formed at Stonecutter's to-day, when the Royal Welsh Fusiliers will commence their annual course of musketry for 1901.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum during last week shows that the former institution was visited by 303 non-Chinese and 83 Chinese, the latter by 140 non-Chinese and 1,614 Chinese.

Mr. G. J. W. King on the 15th inst., offered for sale, at the office of the Public Works Department, one lot of Crown land, Inland Lot 1,635, situated at Taipingshan, which has an area of 1,800 square feet, the annual rental being \$28. The upset price was \$7,200. There was only one bid of \$20, and the lot went to Yau Shui Chi (for Chun Tin Sun), 12, Gutzloff Street, for \$7,220.

Mr. W. F. Aldrich, the United States Vice Consul-General, has now received official confirmation of the appointment of Mr. William A. Rublee, one of the editors of the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, as Consul General at this port. Mr. Rublee is a passenger by the s.s. *China*, which is advertised to leave San Francisco to-morrow, and Mr. Aldrich will return to the United States by the same steamer on 25th May next.

Lieut. Col. J. R. McGinness, of the Ordnance Department, U.S.A., at Manila, who was this week in Hongkong, is proceeding to Europe via Siberia and the Amur River. He meets Capt. Harford, the British Consul at Manila, who is at present at Nagasaki, and they both proceed to Vladivostok, where a short stay will be made prior to making the journey eastward. Capt. Harford was British Consul at Vladivostok and elsewhere in Russia for over thirty years.

The appointment was notified at the Admiralty last month of Assistant Paymaster C. A. Underwood, to the *Tamar*, to date 14th March.

The 3rd Madras Light Infantry paraded in marching order at Kowloon on the 15th inst. for inspection by the Major-General Commanding. The 5th Hyderabad Contingent will be inspected to-morrow.

The U.S.S. *Isla de Luzon*, having almost completed her refit here, will leave for the Philippines within the present month. The U.S.S. *Yorktown* will be out of the Dockyard hands in the course of a few weeks, and will then leave for Manila preparatory to a cruise round the Islands.

Definite orders have been received in Hongkong that the U. S. S. *Newark*, with Captain Bowman H. McCalla in command, is to proceed to New York in the early part of May. She will proceed direct to the United States by way of Suez, probably stopping at Mediterranean ports on the way.

Among the passengers by the s.s. *America Maru*, which arrived on the 14th inst., was Commander Marix, U.S.N., who is going to Manila as Captain of the Port, Lieut. H. G. McFarland, U.S.N., who also proceeds to Manila for service on the station, and Medical Inspector Franklin Rogers, U.S.N., who has been posted to the flagship *Brooklyn* as fleet surgeon.

The Secretary of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce informed us on the 14th inst. that the Chamber learns from the Government that the Venice Sanitary Convention Regulations are being imposed at all ports in the Madras Presidency against arrivals from Tainan, Formosa, and from Hongkong. Also that the Bengal Government are strictly enforcing these regulations in the port of Chittagong against vessels arriving from Hongkong.

Whilst such an institution as the Royal Engineers' Variety Club exists, the Hongkong public need never want for entertainment. On the 13th inst., at Wellington Barracks, an excellent variety programme was gone through, and at its conclusion the company submitted a sketch which, for execution and finish, could compare most favourably with similar productions of more pretentious concerns. The performance will be repeated to-night.

A few days ago the police from the New Territory found on the foreshore at Nam O, a village situated within Chinese boundaries, an old man and woman, both apparently over ninety years of age, utterly destitute and starving. They were lying on a mat spread out on the beach, and beyond a little rice, had absolutely nothing in the way of food. They had been sent out from Nam O, to make the best of their way to British territory and help. Temporary relief in the shape of money and food was given the old couple by the police authorities.

A sad event occurred on board the S. S. *König Albert* on her way down from Shanghai. Mr. W. W. Till, of Messrs Cornes & Co., shipping agents at Yokohama and Kobe, was a passenger with his wife and child. He had been ailing for some time from heart trouble, and when the steamer was one day out from Shanghai he had a relapse, and expired rather suddenly. He was proceeding home with a view of regaining his health. His remains were interred on the 17th inst. at Happy Valley. Mr. Till was principally employed in the Yokohama branch of the firm, with which he had been connected since boyhood. He was 40 years of age.

We have had several complaints from correspondents regarding the present irregularity in the water-supply. One of our correspondents states that for the last two or three days, fearing that the water would be cut off suddenly, he has stored regularly each morning a supply to last for the day. The water was never turned off. On the 13th inst., relying on the heavy rains of last week, he did not store the usual supply. The water was suddenly turned off in the morning before 9 a.m., and the result was that he was left waterless. The last notification in the *Gazette* about the water supply was on the 6th inst., when it was specified, *inter alia*, that below Caine Road (just below which our correspondent resides) the supply of water would be turned on between 6 and 10 a.m. only. Apparently what happened was exactly the reverse.

The next meeting of the Legislative Council is fixed for Monday, 22nd instant.

H.M.S. *Ocean* left yesterday morning for Woosung. The French gunboat *Vipère* left for Hoihow.

The German gunboat *Jaguar* left for Canton on the 17th inst., and the German transport *Andalusia* for Taku.

The appointment of Second Lieutenant Arthur Blake, 1st East Yorkshire Regiment, to be A.D.C. to H.E. the Governor is notified in the *Gazette*.

An accident of a serious nature occurred at Taikoo Sugar Refinery on the 12th inst. Mr. John Blake, chief engineer of the company, was handling some chemicals, when an explosion suddenly took place. Mr. Blake's left hand was so severely injured that he had to be chloroformed and the member amputated above the wrist. He is progressing favourably.

The Secretary of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce courteously informed us on the 12th inst. that the Chamber had been notified by the Government that a telegram had been received from the Acting Commissioner of Customs at Shanghai to the effect that medical inspection of vessels arriving from Hongkong after the 18th instant will be enforced.

The chair-shelter at the Peak being now completed, the coolie headman there is bound to keep chairs at the Tram Terminus ready for hire up to the time of the last night tram's arrival. It often, however, happens that there is no chair waiting at this time. The police state that they cannot keep a policeman posted at the Peak Terminus night and day to look after this, but the public have a remedy, for a complaint to the Captain Superintendent of Police of any instance in which there is no chair waiting will meet with attention.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The next race meeting of the Shanghai Jockey Club is fixed for the 7th, 8th, and 9th May.

Mr. C. F. Garstin has been appointed Student Interpreter in the Consular Service for China, Japan, or Siam.

In the B. Class Handicap of the Lawn Tennis Tournament now proceeding, two more results have been arrived at, L. Lammert, 3/6, beating H. M. Bain (6-3, 6-2), and F. D. Bain, 15, beating J. Judah, 15.3, (6-3, 3-6, 6-3).

The following items are from the *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 6th instant:—The six Boards in Peking are sending clerks to assist the Court at Hsian, which is a sign.—There are 5,000 Russians in Fengtien, keeping a close watch on the passenger traffic.—Prince Chuang died insolvent, and Li Hung-chang and Tuan paid his funeral expenses.—Cheng Wen-ching, a missionary-killing Taoist in Shansi, has fled, and an imperial warrant is out for his execution.

As a result of the fracas at Hongkew last Sunday week in which French soldiers played a prominent part, one of these soldiers has since died as the result of injuries sustained through collision with a ricksha, while attempting to make his escape. The Shanghai papers have been discussing the affair freely. The *N.-C. Daily News* reports having been assured that the soldiers had undoubtedly received great provocation before acting as they did, and that much is to be said on their side in considering the matter. The *Echo de Chine* accuses the English press of exaggerating the affair.

It is reported from Japan that the military council is being held in the Palace almost without intermission. A warlike sentiment is said to sway those participating in it. Many documents in the General Staff are being overhauled. Officers for night service in anticipation of a mobilisation order have been either increased or newly detailed in the various divisional armies. On the 3rd inst. Mr. Kato, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in company with Admiral Yamamoto and General Kodama, called upon Marquis Ito. Rumour says they were engaged in converting the Premier to their views, namely warlike measures. According to the *Nagasaki Press* of the 8th inst., military and naval circles in Japan are reported to be in a state of excessive enjoyment over the prospect of coming to blows with the Russians.

M. Beau, who is to replace M. Pichon as French Minister at Peking, is expected to sail from France to take up his new post to-day.

The U.S.S. *Brooklyn* left Manila on the 13th inst. for Australia, to take part in the reception ceremonies of the Duke and Duchess of York, with Admiral Remy in command.

The following appointments were notified at the Admiralty last month:—Captain F. G. Stopford, to the *Talbot*, Commander E. W. E. Wemyss, to the *Talbot*, to date April 10.

The U.S.S. *Bennington*, which is here at present undergoing a thorough overhaul, has been in commission about 9 years, and when her refit is complete, will probably stay on the station for another commission.

The big new Russian cruiser *Gromoboi* has arrived at Colombo, and will remain there during the Royal visit. Thereafter she sails for Australia to represent Russia at the celebrations on the opening of the Federal Parliament.

It is reported that the Boxers in the South of Shantung have reverted to their original name of *Ta Tao Huae* (Big Sword Society) and are again becoming active, and that Yuan Shih-kai has sent troops to disperse them. Another rumour says that in Ping-yuan-haisien, Shantung, the natives are rioting against the officials and have killed the magistrate, and the rebellion has already spread to three districts.

The Italian Concession at Tientsin has now been marked out with signal flags and title deeds to the property included are to be inspected. Denmark and Austria are also intending to take settlements on the opposite side of the river, we presume (says the *P. & T. Times*) also by right of conquest and because Danish and Austrian blood was spilled there. We have not heard of any being found lying about, but one has to allow for a little diplomatic licence in these cases.

The cruiser *Talbot*, which is to relieve H.M.S. *Bonaventure* on this station, is a second class cruiser of 5,600 tons displacement and 9,600 i.h.p. She was built at Devonport in 1895 at a cost of £273,856. Her armour is 3 in., gun position, and 1½—3 in., deck. Armament, five 6 in. q.f., six 4.7 in., nine 12 pr., one 3 pr., four maxims, and one light gun; and three torpedo tubes (two submarine). Speed, 20 knots, and complement 433. She is therefore an improvement on the *Bonaventure* all round.

The Peking correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* telegraphed on the 6th inst.:—"The indemnity experts are averse to recourse to a foreign loan, and recommend reliance on indigenous revenues; such as the salt taxes, *lekin*, and house taxes." He also states that at a meeting of the allied Generals on the 6th proposals were agreed on to be submitted to the Ministers regarding the transition period (until the return of the Court), the reduction of the forces, and the establishment of the intended forts.

The following items are from the *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 30th ult.—The Chinese are re-establishing octroi at Peking.—Five corpses were found in the Peiho and recognised as being those of men who had been extorting money from the villagers at Taitoa and round about.—The gentry in the American section of Peking have begged that the U.S. forces may not be withdrawn.—The younger brother of Chi Hsiu, who was recently executed at Peking, has become a priest.—The stolen junk-load of cargo intended for the *Lien-shing* has been recovered.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	45,926	61,968
Yokohama	—	—
	45,926	61,968

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	8,229	18,028
Yokohama	—	—
	8,229	18,028

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 19th April.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 19th April.—The upward tendency continues, the market being firm. Quotations are:—

Shenklong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.80 to \$8.85	per cwt.
do. " 2, White.....	7.95 to 8.00	"
Shenklong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.90 to 5.95	"
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.85 to 5.90	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.75 to 8.80	"
do. " 1, White.....	7.85 to 7.90	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ...	5.80 to 5.85	"
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.75 to 5.80	"
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	13.25 to 13.30	"
Shenklong "	12.65 to 12.70	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 19th April.—The position of the market is the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.60 to 2.65	
" Round, Good quality	2.75 to 2.80	
" Long	3.10 to 3.15	
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.80 to 2.85	
" Garden, " No. 1	3.25 to 3.30	
" White.....	3.75 to 3.80	
" Fine Cargo	4.00 to 4.05	

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Stentor*, sailed on the 2nd Apr. For London:—592 half chests tea from Amoy, 1,159 bales hemp, 100 bales feathers, 50 bales W. silk, 49 bales canes, 632 rolls matting, 200 casks preserves, 100 cases P. L. fans, 100 cases gallnuts, 70 cases Chinaware, 59 cases cigars, 28 cases blackwoodware, 2 cases bambooware, 10 cases essential oil, 5 cases curios, 36 pkgs. P effects, 40 pkgs. sundries. For London opt. Manchester:—120 bales waste silk. For London opt. Glasgow:—100 casks ginger. For London opt. Hamburg:—55 bales canes. For Glasgow:—7 cases curios, 3 pkgs. blackwoodware, 2 pkgs. samples. For Hamburg:—4 cases shell.

Per steamer *Marburg*, sailed on the 3rd April. For Havre:—12 casks oil, 64 bales canes. For Hamburg:—50 bales rattanore, 100 bales feathers, 152 bales canes, 249 cases merchandise. For Hamburg and/or London:—174 pkgs. canes. For Antwerp:—17 pkgs. canes.

Per steamer *Gymeric*, sailed on the 4th April. For New York:—1,675 cases cassia, 837 pkgs. fire crackers, 315 bales split bamboo, 500 bales hemp, 227 cases blackwoodware, 46 cases Chinaware, 10 bales rattanore, 5,195 pkgs. merchandise.

Per steamer *Savioia*, sailed on the 6th April. For Havre:—20 cases lith. paper, 140 bales canes. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—10 cases human hair, 10 cases essential oil, 12 bales canes, 50 cases lith. paper, 60 rolls mats. For Hamburg:—30 cases essential oil, 97 bales canes, 100 cases fire crackers, 100 bales cassia buds, 192 bales feathers, 200 bales broken cassia. For Copenhagen:—100 cases cassia.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 19th April.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*: 50 bales No. 8 at \$79, 1,150 bales No. 10 at \$80 to \$88, 400 bales No. 12 at \$88.50 to \$90, 300 bales No. 16 at \$93 to \$101, 1,050 bales No. 20 at \$96 to \$108. *White Shirtings*: 250 pieces 300 K. at \$70. *Lawns*: 6,000 pieces Brown Stag at 74 cents.

COTTON YARN—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$75.00 to \$108.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.10 to 2.15
7 lbs.	2.40 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	2.80 to 3.50
9 to 10 lbs.	3.60 to 4.40
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.50 to 2.75
58 to 60 "	3.15 to 4.00
64 to 66 "	4.20 to 5.50
Fine.....	5.10 to 7.75
Book-folds.	4.30 to 6.90

Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.75 to 1.50
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.....	1.70 to 1.85
7lbs. (32 ")	1.90 to 2.20
6lbs. (32 "), Mexa.....	1.90 to 2.15
7lbs. (32 ")	2.75 to 3.60
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.).....	2.80 to 3.50
Drills, English—40yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	4.20 to 7.00

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs } 1.55 to 5.00

Brocades—Dyed..... — to — per yard

Chintzes—Assorted0.081 to 0.17

Velvets—Black, 22 in.0.221 to 0.60

Velveteens—18 in.0.20 to 0.221 per dozen

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.36 to 2.50

WOOLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....0.80 to 1.50

Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 2.50 per piece

Long Ells—Scarlet..... 6.40 to 10.00

Assorted..... 6.50 to 10.10

Camlets—Assorted.....12.50 to 32.00

METALS—

Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } 8.00 to 20.00

Assorted } 8.50 to 10.00

Orleans—Plain 8.50 to 10.00 per pair

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 4.00 to 18.00 per picul

Iron—Nail Rod 4.00 to —

Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 4.00 to —

Swedish Bar 6.50 to —

Small Round Rod 4.50 to —

Hoop 1 to 11½ in. 5.25 to —

Wire 15/25 7.50 to —

Old Wire Rope 2.50 to —

Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 9.00 to —

Australian 8.70 to —

Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —

Vivian's 14/20 oz. 40.50 to —

Elliot's 14/20 oz. 40.50 to —

New Chop 14/20 oz. — to —

Composition Nails.....63.00 to —

Japan Copper, Slabs.....42.00 to —

Tin.....69.50 to —

Tin-Plates 6.75 to — per box

Steel 1 to 1½ 5.75 to — per cwt. case

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 19th April.

ON LONDON.—EXCHANGE.

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/0½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.47½
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.52

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	2.01
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	49
Credits, 60 days' sight	49

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	147½
Bank, on demand	148

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	147½
Bank, on demand	148

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	2½ p.c. pm.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	2½ p.c. pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	1 p.c. pm.
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ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	118½
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ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand	2½ p.c. pm.
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ON SAIGON.—

On demand	2 p.c. pm.
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ON BANGKOK.—

On demand	60½
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate10.14

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael53

BAR SILVER per oz.27½

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—*Sobraon* (str.), *Canton* (str.), *Calchas* (str.), *Ajax* (str.), *Antenor* (str.).
FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Ulysses* (str.), *Pyrrhus* (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.—*Oceanien* (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—*Prinzess Irene* (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Konigsberg* (str.), *Segovia* (str.), *Ameria* (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Tartar* (str.), *Idumi Maru* (str.), *Olympia* (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.), *Tartar* (str.).
FOR PORTLAND (OREGON).—*Knight Companion* (str.).
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*Gastie* (str.), *America Maru* (str.), *City of Peking* (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—*Richmond Castle* (str.), *Astoria* (str.).

VERNON & SMYTH'S SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 19th April.—The activity in demand reported in our last has continued during the week under review, and a good general business has been transacted in most stocks at advancing rates.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed in moderate quantities at rates ranging up to 370 per cent premium for cash, and more shares are wanted. The London rate has advanced to £60 5s. Nationals are wanted at \$27.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have changed hands at \$230, \$282 and \$235, and the demand continues. Buyers are now willing to pay \$290. China Traders have been sold at \$57 and close with buyers at \$57½. Yangtszes are wanted at \$135. Cantons have been sold at \$160 and are now in demand at \$165.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires continue in request, and the rate has been raised to \$325. China Fires are wanted at \$84½.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are apparently attracting some attention, and after sales at \$33½ and \$33½ have further buyers at \$34. Indo-Chinas have continued in demand and sales at rapidly rising rates up to \$128 have been effected, the market closing with further buyers at the figure. China Manilas, old, have been placed at \$6½, and more are wanted. The new shares have been sold at \$39½ to \$41 and there are further buyers at the latter figure. Douglasses have been sold at \$49 to \$52, but the market has since weakened, and \$5½ is now the best rate obtainable. Star Ferries are in demand at \$24 and \$9 for the old and new shares respectively. Shells are obtainable at £3.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have improved their position, and have buyers at \$13½. Luzons are unchanged at \$38.

MINING.—Punjoms have eased off and are obtainable at \$5½. Jebebus have buyers at \$5. Raubs after sales at \$38 are a shade firmer at \$39 with probable buyers. Olivers "A" are in the market at \$1½. The "B" shares have been placed at \$1½.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have continued in demand and have been placed for cash, and the end of the month at various rates up to \$280, at which the market closes with further buyers. For August fair sales have been made at \$295. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been placed at \$103, at which further parcels could probably be obtained. Wanchais have been sold at \$63. New Amoy Docks are wanted at \$22½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have weakened considerably under settlement influences, and have been placed down to \$196 for the end of the month. The market closes with sellers at \$197 cash. Kowloon Lands have been in demand and have improved to \$30. West Points, after sales at \$49, \$50, \$51 and \$53 are obtainable at the latter figure. Hongkong Hotels are wanted at \$120. Humphreys Estates have been sold and are enquired for at \$13½.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong Cottons have been done in large lots at \$7½ and further shares are wanted. The Northern Mills are steady at quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have been in fair request and sales are reported at \$18 to \$18½ ex dividend; the market closing with buyers at the latter rate. China Borneos are wanted at \$138 ex dividend. Watsons have

been placed, and are steady at \$117. Electrics are obtainable at quotations. Teas have been placed at \$163 and have since improved to \$164. Tramways are wanted at \$220. Other stocks under this heading are unchanged at quotations.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	{ 37 p.ct. prem. = \$587½, buyers £60. 5s.
China & Japan, ordy.	24	21.
Do. deferred	21	25 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$27, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$26½.
Foun. Shares	21	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$1.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20.
China Light & Power		
Co., Ltd.	\$20	20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.2½, sales
China Sugar	\$100	\$136, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra, Limited	\$500	\$1,500, buyers
La Commercial, Ltd.	\$500	\$1,000, buyers
Hensiana, Limited	\$100	\$100, buyers
La Favorita, Ltd.	\$500	\$1,000, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Fls. 100	Fls. 44, buyers
International	Fls. 100	Fls. 40.
Laon Kung Mow	Fls. 100	Fls. 55.
Soycebe	Fls. 500	Fls. 325.
Yehloong	Fls. 100	Fls. 50.
Hongkong	\$100	\$7½, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$8	\$7, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$18½, ex div., byrs.
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$135, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$12½, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$6.9, sellers
Hk. Steam Water		
boat Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$7.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$121, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$164, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$103.
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$157½.
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$28, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$165, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$84½, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$57, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$325, buyers
North China	\$25	Fls. 182½.
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$20, buyers
Yangtsze	\$30	\$135, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv	\$100	\$197, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$131, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30.
West Point Building	\$50	\$53, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$38.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$30, sellers
Jebebu	\$5	\$5, sales & buyers
Queen's Mines, Ltd.	25c.	nominal.
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$1½, sellers
Do. B.	\$4½	\$1.5½.
Punjom	\$9	\$5½.
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.20.
Raubs	18	\$30.
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$22½, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$80, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$63.
China Mutual Pref	\$20	\$41, buyers
China Ordinary	\$10	\$12.
Do.	25	\$7.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$50, buyers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$34, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$128, buyers
Shell Transport and		
Trading Co.	21	23, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$24, buyers \$9, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$20.
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37½	\$33, sales
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$10, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$17, sales
Universal Trading		
Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$20, nominal

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.	DEPARTURES.
April—	April—
12, Skuld, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.	13, Chusan, British str., for Europe.
12, Loyal, German str., from Newchwang.	13, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
13, Daybreak, British str., from Shanghai.	13, Trym, Norw. str., for Chafco.
13, Agamemnon, British str., from Moji.	13, Bamberg, German str., for Bangkok.
1, Ulysses, British str., from Liverpool.	13, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
13, Benlomond, British str., from Moji.	13, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
13, Canton, British str., from Swatow.	13, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
13, Coromandel, British str., from Bombay.	13, Glenogle, British str., for Victoria.
13, Humber, British storeship, from Canton.	13, Charterhouse, British str., for Amoy.
13, Jaguar, German gunboat, from practice.	13, Oregon, U.S. battleship, for Woosung.
13, Akashi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.	13, Formosa, H.M. trapt., for Weihaiwei.
13, Taito Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.	14, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
14, Diamante, British str., from Manila.	14, Aristeo, Austrian str., for Moji.
14, Hailong, British str., from Haiphong.	14, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
14, Flandria, German str., from Shanghai.	14, Benlarig, British str., for Swatow.
14, Idomenos, British str., from Shanghai.	14, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
14, Marie Jebsen, German str., from Saigon.	14, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
14, Tantalus, British str., from Shanghai.	14, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.
14, Thales, British str., from Swatow.	14, Coromandel, British str., for Shanghai.
14, Trieste, Austrian str., from Kobe.	14, Lalpoora, British str., for Amoy.
14, Burnside, Amr. str., from Manila.	14, L. yal, German str., for Java.
14, Chas. Regier, British str., from Saigon.	14, Taichow, German str., for Swatow.
14, China, German str., from Saigon.	15, Ulysses, British str., for Shanghai.
15, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.	15, Goliath, British battleship, for Shanghai.
15, Hoihao, French str., from Haiphong.	15, Saechuen, British str., for Canton.
15, Szachuen, British str., from Wuhu.	
15, Wosang, British str., from Wuhu.	
15, Zweena, British str., from Saigon.	
15, Andalusia, German trapt., from Colombo.	
15, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.	
15, Fushua, British str., from Shanghai.	
15, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.	
15, Suevia, German str., from Hamburg.	
15, Dr. H. J. Kiev, Norw. str., from Canton.	
15, Decima, German str., from Saigon.	
15, Olympia, British str., from Tacoma.	
16, Empress of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.	
16, Konig Albert, Ger. str., from Yokohama.	
16, Buckingham, British str., from Moji.	
16, Denbighshire, British str., from London.	
16, Kaifong, British str., from Cebu.	
16, Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.	
16, Chwushan, British str., from Bangkok.	
16, Elita Nossack, German str., from Shanghai.	
16, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.	
16, Tsinar, British str., from Hongay.	
16, Babelsberg, German str., from Canton.	
16, Paoting, British str., from Canton.	
16, Andia, British str., from Shanghai.	
17, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.	
17, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.	
17, Canton, British str., from Canton.	
17, Feiching, British str., from Canton.	
17, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Bremen.	
17, Hua, French str., from Haiphong.	
17, Simongun, Dutch str., from Samarang.	
18, Haieh Ho, German str., from Wuhu.	
18, Gisela, Austrian str., from Trieste.	
18, Vipers, French gunboat, from Hoihow.	
18, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.	
18, Lizard, British gunboat, from Canton.	
18, Ceylon, British str., from London.	
19, Sacotra, British str., from London.	
19, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.	
19, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.	
19, Amara, British str., from Singapore.	

15, Flandria, German str., for Canton.
 15, Lizard, British gunboat, for Canton.
 15, Wongkoi, German str., for Yap.
 16, Hiusang, British str., for Singapore.
 16, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 16, Diamante, British str., for Manila.
 16, Tantalus, British str., for London.
 16, Fushun, British str., for Canton.
 16, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
 16, Dr. H. J. Kier, Norw. str., for Chefoo.
 16, Hainan, German str., for Chefoo.
 16, Independent, German str., for Swatow.
 16, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 16, Petrarch, German str., for Manila.
 17, Konig Albert, German str., for Europe.
 17, Sullberg, German str., for Newchwang.
 17, Ilocos, Norwegian str., for Cebu.
 17, Skuld, Norw. str., for Newchwang.
 17, Andalusia, German str., for Taku.
 17, Taiyo Maru, Japanese str., for Chefoo.
 17, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., for K'otzu.
 17, Taito Maru, Jap. str., for Takao.
 17, Trieste, Austrian str., for Bombay.
 17, Calabria, Italian str., for Singapore.
 17, Jaguar, German gunboat, for Canton.
 17, Hailoong, British str., for Haiphong.
 17, Idomenus, British str., for London.
 17, Zweena, British str., for Amoy.
 17, Paoing, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 17, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
 17, Akashi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 17, Daphne, German str., for Nagasaki.
 17, Suevia, German str., for Shanghai.
 18, Ocean, British battleship, for Woosung.
 18, Paul Revere, Amr. ship, for Yokohama.
 18, Peiching, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Canton, British str., for Swatow.
 18, Candia, British str., for London.
 18, Perla, British str., for Manila.
 18, Hailan, French str., for Hoibow.
 18, Hoibac, French str., for Haiphong.
 18, Hating, French str., for Vancouver.
 18, China, German str., for Newchwang.
 18, Thyra, British str., for Moji.
 19, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
 19, Denbighshire, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 19, Idzumi Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
 19, Kasuga Maru, Japanese str., for Japan.
 19, Sanuki Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
 19, Hua, French str., for Kwong-chow-wan.
 19, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 19, Pronto, German str., for Saigon.
 19, Peiyang, German str., for Port Arthur.
 19, Taishan, Amr. str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *America Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. M. D. Garratt, Rev. W. A. Goodell, Miss M. Jorgenson, Miss A. Keyes, Comdr. A. Marix, Lieut. H. G. Macfarlane, Mrs. J. R. McKenzie, Surgeon F. Rogers, Messrs. R. D. Paine, F. A. Morgan, N. F. Gray, H. Miller, B. H. nig, Miss L. Sandman, Rev. H. C. Stuntz, Mr. and Mrs. A. Van Vlissingen, Mr. R. B. Toft, Miss L. E. Edwards, Messrs. J. B. Coulson, T. M. Little, H. A. Sanger, A. J. Pitcher, A. W. Grant, and L. B. Standley.

Per *Coromandel*, for Hongkong, from London, Messrs. G. C. Valpy, A. King, Comdr. Orpen, Mr. Ralli Robertson, Mrs. Phasey and two children, Staff-Sergt. and Mrs. Chater and two children, Mrs. Burnett, Sergt. and Mrs. Hawkins and child, Messrs. Tunstall Moore, Talbot, Hill, Sir B. I. M. Leech, Lady and Miss Leach, from Marseilles, Misses Bell and Brodie, Mdle. de St. Escupery, Messrs. Inglis, McEwan, Rev. and Mrs. Phillips, and Miss Casson; from Gibraltar, Mr. A. W. Bolton; from Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. Wladionersky and two children, and Mr. J. A. Hawes; from Bombay, Lieut. Bayley; from Colombo, Mr. A. J. Leech, Corpl. J. Davis, and Bomdr. J. Hope; from Penang, Mr. G. L. Bailey, Hon. Egerton, Dr. and Mrs. McClosky, and Mr. Morland; from Singapore, Messrs. H. Francis, H. F. Reynolds, Van Maadijk, P. C. Demoeche, Mr. and Mrs. Finlay, and Mr. Guiferez; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. Evans, Miss Tattersall, Messrs. P. Mason and E. P. Ruse; from Marseilles, Mrs. Birkbeck, Mr. Harris, Rev. O. M. Jackson, and Mr. Parr; from Colombo, Mr. J. M. Lobb; for Yokohama, from London, Messrs. Harrison; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Noakes; for Manila, from London, Mr. G. Cantley.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Dr. and Mrs. Kruger and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins and three children, Lieut. C. Henon, Mr. and Mrs. Dodge, Messrs. Juan Koch, E. Hall, Lieut. Col. McGuinness, Messrs. H. L. Loomis, F. Johnson, J. J. Donahus, C. Brown, F. Hendrelet, W. S. Woods, R. Fremault, and J. S. Jacks.

Per *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, Mr. J. Orange; from Kobe, Dr. and Mrs. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Dickson and child; from Nagasaki, Miss Barnes, Miss Tait and Mr. J. Harvey; from Shanghai, Messrs. P. H. MacKlin and H. Lacksmith and Mrs. Cooper.

Per *Konig Albert*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr. W. Daniels, Mrs. Till and children, Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Falk, Messrs. Hayn, Sidden, and M. H. de Santos; from Kobe, Mr. Brodersen; from Nagasaki, Mr. R. Shea; from Shanghai, Messrs. George Moffat, R. Lund, H. Figge, Mr. and Mrs. Bauer, Mrs. Anderson and child, Messrs. T. B. Senna and Lund.

Per *Taisang*, from Shanghai, Messrs. J. M. Millwood, W. Phipps, Major and Mrs. Lowin, Mr. G. P. Gardner, Capt. Hogg, and Mr. Humphreys.

Per *Kasuga Maru*, from Melbourne, for Hongkong, Mr. R. W. Handley, Miss Riordan, Mr. Bridge, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Maddock, Mr. and Mrs. A. MacKillop, Mr. Crawford, Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Parkinson, Mr. L. Parkinson, Mrs. Noronha and two children, Mons. Chapelle, Miss Tosepim Soligwao, Messrs. Thomas Lorente, L. H. Littlefield, C. W. Porter, C. M. Jinkins, Mrs. Gen. J. M. Bell, Messrs. Mimoz and four children and John Warren; for Kobe, Messrs. W. Acton, Adams, J. Selles, Wm. Simpson, and R. Ajechi; for Yokohama, Miss K. E. Lindsay, Miss M. Ritchie, Miss Ritchie, Mr. and Mrs. R. Butchard, Messrs. R. B. Pynsent, T. Fukushima, Mr. and Mrs. A. Abeckett, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Spowers, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wallace, Messrs. R. H. Butler, G. W. Dennis, Miss Tomkins, Mr. D. Le Creu, Mrs. E. H. Baxter, Mr. and Mrs. J. Blackburn, Mr. Campbell Dauncey, Mrs. Major Cruise and two sons, Col. L. C. Heizmann and three children, Messrs. A. Evangelista, Thomas M. Taylor, U.S.N., John J. Kirk, F. Fernandes, Mrs. Anna V. Rodgers and three children.

Per *Sanuki Maru*, from Yokohama, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Matsudaira, Messrs. Warren, Y. Enepson and N. Sekigachi; for Marseilles, Comdr. S. Tsuda and Dr. T. Murayama; for London, Messrs. R. Mulkern, J. R. Fair, Mrs. Gearson and three children, Rev. E. A. Webb, Rev. T. Smai, Mr. S. Kusaka and Mr. and Mrs. Kawakami; for Singapore, Mr. Murase.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Bremen, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Wendt, Dr. J. Kirk, Mr. W. Makepeace, Dr. Diffmann, Messrs. J. J. Francis, H. Lammer, Misses M. and T. Hutchings, Mrs. F. J. Andrew, and Miss P. Raine.

DEPARTED.

Per *Inaba Maru*, for Japan, Prof. S. Miyoshi, Messrs. R. Kondo, T. Kawada, K. Takayanagi, Surg. H. Mayakawa, Mrs. Abrams, Messrs. K. Fuji and K. Tomita, Mrs. Todd, Messrs. R. Galloway, W. Rowley, S. Funaoishi, P. Joas, Dr. K. Kitajima, Mr. M. Shimoda, Dr. J. Tsudzuki, Messrs. K. Izawa, H. G. Oxley, D. Henderson, Dr. M. Yamagata, Capt. and Mrs. McLellan, Messrs. H. Otakura, T. Nozuki, F. Kakasaki, Okabe, Izusuki, C. Minra, and Wm. Prenitt.

Per *Coptic*, for Shanghai, Messrs. Dang, H. R. Macanlay, M. M. Tackay, W. H. Zinn, Mrs. R. H. Leigh, Mrs. Stephenson, Messrs. H. H. Horsey and C. Rasby; for Nagasaki, Messrs. J. G. Edwards, C. E. Nicholson, C. R. Jensen, and A. Graff; for Kobe, Mrs. Godsey and Mr. N. S. Clark; for Yokohama, Mr. H. C. Field, Mrs. C. M. Thomas, Miss Thomas, Miss R. Thomas, Capt. Bland and Duff and Mr. W. H. Schaefer; for Honolulu, Miss E. G. Leggett; for San Francisco, Mr. C. F. Davis, Capt. H. G. O. Colby, U.S.N., Capt. C. H. Arnold, U.S.N., Mrs. J. A. Lewandowsky, Messrs. W. B. Jones, F. P. Slemmer, Mrs. S. G. Burnham, Miss Haverdell, Mr. H. K. Belden, Lieut.-Comdr. J. M. Bomyer, U.S.N., Mrs. R. B. Belknap, Mrs. C. L. Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Emerson, Miss M. W. Crozier, Mrs. Dixon, Rev. and Mrs. J. S. Hankins, Messrs. M. C. Kneip, W. D. Hudson, P. T. Flack, A. Spambelg, L. Noyer, S. Swart, R. D. Paine, B. W. Talbot, and L. S. Hill; for New York, Messrs. O.

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